

Hafa Adai!

Fire chief Pua is appointed DFEMS commissioner. **PAGE 4**
EPA encourages CNMI pursuit of 'Zero Waste' **PAGE 6**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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CHCC, DPW get disconnection notices

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. served notices



Yumul



Peavey

» **Outstanding balance amounts to \$53.6M and \$1.2M, respectively**
» **CHCC's power not disconnected yet**

\$1.2 million as of March 31, 2023, respectively.

A CUC administrative technician served the notice of disconnection to CHCC at 2:48pm and DPW at 4:10pm.

See **CHCC** on Page 4

of disconnection to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Department of Public Works Wednesday afternoon due to unpaid power and water services amounting to \$53.6 million and

Torres' defense team petitions Finance chief to find Kingman's contract invalid

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The defense team of former governor Ralph DLG Torres has petitioned the acting Finance secretary Tracy Norita to invalidate the contract between special pro-



Norita



Kingman

secutor James Kingman and the Office of the Attorney General, which had hired him to assist in prosecuting the case against Torres.

Torres' defense team submitted last

See **TORRES** on Page 4

Palacios-Apatang tandem marks first 100 days

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

While there is no constitutional significance to the first 100 days of the term of an elected leader, many people tend to use this period to evaluate the top chief executives' performance or accomplishments.

In the case of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, the new administration reached the first 100 days of their term last Wednesday, April 19. Their first 100

See **PALACIOS** on Page 4



Senate confirms 6 Palacios appointees

From left, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios pose with Victoria S. Bellas, Phillip Mendiola-Long, Dr. Rita A. Sablan, and Alvaro A. Santos after swearing them into office yesterday. Bellas will serve on the Civil Service Commission, while Sablan, Santos, and Mendiola-Long will serve on the board of the Marianas Public Land Trust.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate unanimously confirmed yesterday the appointment of Clement R. Bermudes for the position of Department of Public Safety

commissioner, as well as five others for various board and commission positions.

Aside from Bermudes, the Senate also confirmed the appointments of Dr. Rita A. Sablan, Alvaro Santos, and Phil-

See **SENATE** on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, left, poses with Clement R. Bermudes, who was confirmed by the Senate yesterday to serve as commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:
162

INSIDE



BUSINESS

A new take-out only food stall called Mhel's Bento has opened to serve residents in San Roque.

PAGE 14



ASIA

India should surpass China's population midway through this year, according to the United Nations.

PAGE 16



LIFE & STYLE

Nearly 300 Tyrannosaurus rex bones were sold at a Switzerland auction for \$5.3 million.

PAGE 18



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Local

High court vacates estate administrator appointment

The Supreme Court issued yesterday its opinion vacating a trial court decision appointing an administrator in *In the Matter of the Estate of Rosa Lisua Moteisou*, 2023 MP 3.

The trial court relied on the Rules of Probate Procedure to permit any Commonwealth resident at least 18 years old to initiate a probate action, even though the person appointed had no relation with the decedent or interest in the estate.

In vacating the decision, the Supreme Court held that a person must have stand-

ing to file a case, that is, the person must have an interest in the outcome of the case. The Supreme Court denied the administrator's request to substitute in an interested person. It held that when a person has no standing, the court lacks jurisdiction, meaning it cannot hear the person's requests and decide the case. The Supreme Court remanded the case with instructions to dismiss it.

The high court's full opinion is available at: <https://cnmilaw.org/pdf/supreme/2023-MP-03.pdf> (PR)

Bravecto, vaccine clinic next week

Saipan Humane Society will be hosting another Bravecto and Vaccine Clinic on Tuesday, April 25, and Wednesday, April 26, from 10am to 2pm at their clinic located at the Mayor's Animal Shelter.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for pet owners to ensure your furry companions are protected against fleas, ticks, and common diseases with Bravecto and essential vaccines," said SHS in a news release.

Bravecto, a highly effective and long-lasting flea and tick preventative, provides up to 12 weeks of continuous protection with just one chew or topical treatment. It's a convenient and reliable option for keeping your pets safe from the dangers of fleas and ticks, which can cause discomfort, skin irritation, and transmit diseases.

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When you 'see something, say something'

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Faced with an increasing number of sexual assault incidents on island, the CNMI's Sexual Assault Response Team is ramping up its campaign to let people know of services that are available to survivors and victims, and making these services even more accessible.

Speaking at a news briefing at the Saipan World Resort last Wednesday, representatives of

groups under the Sexual Assault Response Team, which includes the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Karidat Social Services, and the Office of the Attorney General, explained that they are working to increase access for services intended for survivors and victims of sexual assault.

Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds of the OAG Criminal Division disclosed at the news briefing that the rates of report-

ed sexual crime, and the number of sexual assault and abuse in the CNMI, have increased, instead of decreasing, and urged the community that if they "see something, say something," and not to ignore what is happening.

Maisie B. Tenorio, NMCADSV executive director, said it is critical to involve our community, "to involve everybody out there in the CNMI to address sexual assault, so that we can start to hold offenders accountable."

She said that holding people accountable is not just within the criminal justice system, but also in the community. "I think

that type of accountability is so much more powerful, when the community says, 'We will not tolerate sexual assault, sex offenders are the only ones to blame for sexual assault,' and you start to put those messages out there, I think that will really increase reporting and then we can start to identify offenders in our community and stop sexual assault," she said.

Lauri Ogumorro, Karidat's executive director, also noted that they seek to provide victim-centered services, and emphasized the need to support survivors' and victims' needs.

Tenorio said the CNMI's

Sexual Assault Response Team is trying to create a system response that includes every agency in the CNMI that may encounter victims of sexual assault and sexual abuse. Another part of their mission and goals for the next few years is to ensure that service providers and responders are also being taken care of and are equipped and trained to provide the responses needed in these difficult situations.

Tenorio said team members, alongside the coalition, have been organizing training events for service providers, as well as developing policies and finding gaps and solutions that can be made and addressed.

"...There is so much happening behind the scenes to increase and create this collaborative response that is trauma informed and victim-centered," she said.

The response team is also working to walk through and support victims during the process of getting justice against offenders or through the step-by-step process to access needed and available services.

DPS looking into false arrest allegation

In response to a false arrest claim by Ji Jing Borja, the Department of Public Safety says it is looking into these allegations.

According to acting DPS chief Clement Bermudes, the DPS administration is now looking into Borja's claim that he was arrested last week following a verbal altercation at the Smiling Cove Marina. Borja claims he was arrested but not informed of the charges.

"We take allegations of misconduct seriously because it's

our binding responsibility with the public. We are actively investigating this allegation at the moment," said Bermudes.

Borja is the co-defendant of Marvin Rodney Pangelinan in an ongoing bribery case in Superior Court.

Saipan Tribune learned that after Borja was booked and detained at the Department of Corrections last week, he posted bail and is set to appear before a judge on May 1. *(Kimberly B. Esmores)*

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Comic Ron Josol returns to Saipan

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Marianas Pacific Distributors is bringing back a familiar face to cap its 50th anniversary celebration. Ron Josol will headline Bud Light's Saipan Comedy Series tomorrow night at Kensington Hotel Saipan.

Marpac resident manager Guy Pudney said the 48-year-old standup comic helped celebrate the company's 40th year anniversary in 2013 and it's only fitting that he will be the final act in Marpac's golden anniversary celebrations a decade late in 2023.

"It's been awhile since we had a comedy act so we wanted to bring in Ron Josol and have some fun. Ron Josol will be our last act. He's Filipino-Canadian so a lot of people here can relate to his Filipino heritage."

Like 10 years ago, Josol's act will be preceded by Chynaman, but the local funnyman is not alone as Netty Cee will share the stage with him.

Santi Big Boi Sablan will serve as the event's emcee.

Pudney is already foreseeing that "Stand Up Comedy With Ron Josol" will be a blockbuster.

"We're hoping it will be a sold-out crowd," he said.

Tickets for the event are \$20 for early bird buyers and \$30 at the door. You can buy the tickets online at saipancomedyseries.com or at all Shell gas stations. For VIP tables, you can inquire at Marpac.

Pudney said Marpac is also taking part in this year's Liberation

Day Parade and hosting a 50th anniversary golf tournament later this year in October.

"We are also currently doing some promotions at local stores to where we're giving away a total of \$50,000 in prizes and we're also sponsoring the Katchafire concert in May. We will be doing some other activities throughout the year so stay tuned," he said.

"Stand Up Comedy With Ron Josol" will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam & CNMI chapter. Doors open at 5pm for happy hour.

Fire chief Pua is appointed DFEMS commissioner



Pua

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has appointed Fire chief Juan A. Pua to be the commissioner of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Pua's appointment requires Senate confirmation.

In his memorandum Tuesday, Palacios said that Pua will be the acting DFEMS commissioner until the Senate confirms his appointment.

Pua is a veteran DFEMS firefighter. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

CHCC

From Page 1

CUC denied cutting power to CHCC yesterday.

In a statement late yesterday, CUC said it is aware of false information about CHCC's power being disconnected yesterday, Thursday, April 20, 2023.

"CUC confirms that CHCC's power has not been disconnected, and any information to the contrary is completely false," the CUC statement said.

CUC did clarify that there is an ongoing issue regarding CHCC's noncompliant solar photovoltaic system.

"Consequently, CUC issued a 30-day disconnection notice to CHCC today to address the violation with its solar [photovoltaic] system, which needs to meet the

net metering interconnection requirements standards and safety regulations.

"CUC is urging the public to rely only on official information released by the corporation and to refrain from spreading unconfirmed information. CUC understands the importance of factual information and is committed to providing updates as the situation progresses."

In his demand for payment, acting CUC executive director Dr. Dallas M. Peavey Jr. informed CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña and acting DPW secretary Ray N. Yumul that services will be terminated on May 4, 2023—14 days from the date of the notice—if payment or settlement is not made.

Peavey said the continued delinquent status of CHCC and DPW has adversely impacted CUC's ability to provide reliable uninterrupted services

to the community and adds to CUC's already struggling financial health.

Peavey said CUC's revenue allows it to make critical improvements to its infrastructure to maintain its role of providing 24-hour power, water, and wastewater services to the CNMI.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for comment, Yumul said yesterday that DPW has always promptly processed payment requests with the Department of Finance when DPW receives its utility bill from CUC.

"I believe the issue stems from last fiscal year's 'promise of [American Rescue Plan Act] as the source of funds' to pay CUC," Yumul said, adding that, as many people know, the ARPA funds were mismanaged.

"I do question why DPW was targeted amongst all the other governmental customers of CUC," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PALACIOS

From Page 1

days assumed a certain significance since they were faced with dire economic and financial challenges when they took their oaths of office last Jan. 9, 2023.

At that time, Palacios described the CNMI's situation as grappling with crises on multiple fronts. Among the challenges that Palacios and Apatang cited were the overcommitment of American Rescue Plan Act funds and overdue audit reports.

When asked by *Saipan Tribune* about the administration's performance during the first 100 days, the Office of the Governor yesterday stated that Palacios and Apatang will be discussing their accomplishments next week.

As part of efforts to set the CNMI on a path to recovery, the administration has implemented cost-containment measures and proposed revision to the budget law for the government's operations for the remaining months of fiscal year 2023.

Last month, Palacios announced that he is cutting the work schedule of some Executive Branch employees to just 72 hours starting this Monday, April 24, 2023, and through the end of fiscal year 2023.

Generally, Executive Branch departments, offices, and activities will shut down every other Monday following this Monday, April 24.

Palacios and Apatang have sought assistance from federal government for additional financial resources and technical help to perform forensic audits of the Commonwealth's federal and local accounts in order to have reconcile accounts.

In line with their campaign slogan of "restoring trust" in government, the administration has appointed highly qualified individuals to key positions. As of yesterday, there are still a few appointees who have yet to be confirmed by the Senate.

The administration emphasized the need to ensure a level playing field for all companies, investors, and individuals that want to do business in the CNMI.

Last Feb. 23, citing lack of fund-

ing, the administration terminated the \$8-million sole-source contract with the startup interisland airline, Marianas Southern Airways.

After hinting that they may sue the CNMI for breaching the contract, SMA eventually ceased operations after April 1, 2023.

To jumpstart the Japan tourism market, Palacios and some Marianas Visitors Authority officials recently went to a four-day trip to Japan.

Aside from trying to strengthen partnerships with federal agencies, Palacios and Apatang have also strengthened their relationship with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP). They already held a couple of meetings to advocate for the CNMI and its priorities in Washington, D.C.

Palacios and Apatang have also prioritized expediting reimbursements of disaster recovery funds.

They are also expediting some infrastructure projects in order for the infrastructure funds to circulate within the CNMI economy.

Palacios is the 10th governor of the CNMI, while Apatang is the 13th lieutenant governor.

BECQ islandwide cleanup today and tomorrow

The CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and their partners will be participating in the celebration of Earth Day through this year's BECQ Islandwide Cleanup, which is set to begin today, and tomorrow.

Registered agencies and their volunteers will be meeting today at their chosen locations throughout the island, both coastal and inner island, where the cleanups are set to begin at 2:30pm until 4:30pm. The second effort will begin on Saturday, the official Earth Day, at 8am and will conclude at 11am.

This BECQ effort is in partnership

with the Division of Environmental Quality and Division of Coastal Resource Management, the CNMI Department of Public Works, and the Marianas Island Nature Alliance.

DEQ director Zabrana Cruz, shared that they are also celebrating 40 years of environmental awareness in the CNMI. This year's theme is "Our island's health is our common wealth."

Last year, during the annual islandwide cleanup, they collected 2,000-plus lbs of trash on Saipan, Cruz said.

This year is unique because they are able to for include Tinian and Rota in the event. *(Chrystal Marino)*

SENATE

From Page 1

lip M. Long to serve as members of the Marianas Public Land Trust. Sablan represents Saipan/women, Santos represents Saipan and Northern Islands, and Long represents Tinian and Aguiguan.

The Senate also confirmed the nomination of Donna M. Flores to serve as a member of the CNMI Scholarship board of directors, representing Saipan and Northern Islands, and Victoria S. Bellas to serve as a member of the Civil Service Commission.

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, in his capacity as acting governor, watched the appointees' confirmation hearing.

With respect to other confirmed appointees, Sablan will serve the remaining term vacated by Maria Frica T. Pangelinan, which will expire on Jan. 9, 2024.

Santos will serve the remainder term of Martin B. Ada, which will expire on Jan. 9, 2024.

Long will complete the term of Pete Q. Cruz, which will expire on Jan. 9, 2024.

Flores will serve a four-year term, which will expire on June 22, 2026. Bellas will serve a four-year term, which will expire in January 2027.

In a later interview, Bermudes said he is grateful to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Apatang for believing in his ability to lead DPS and to his wife, family, and "to the men and blue in the department, including civilians that actually support our officers everyday, day in day out."

Bermudes said he looks forward to the community's continued support "because our community demand the best services that we can provide."

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

TORRES

From Page 1

Tuesday the petition for Norita to find the Kingman contract invalid. Norita officially received the petition yesterday.

Torres' team explained that they submitted this petition to the department because the CNMI Department of Finance is constitutionally required to control and regulate the expenditure of public funds.

It was the Finance Department that issued the check for a \$50,000 retainer for Kingman.

"[DOF] is required to promulgate regulations, including accounting procedures, that require public officials to provide full and reasonable documentation that public funds are expended for public purposes," said Torres' defense team.

According to the petition, Torres is requesting a declaratory ruling on the validity of the special prosecutor's contract as Torres is adversely aggrieved by the contract by denying him his constitutional and statutory rights to be prosecuted by a lawfully appointed or procured prosecutor.

"Mr. Torres contends that the special prosecutor contract with the [OAG] is void because it fails to comply with the Commonwealth procurement regulations. Specifically, the procurement regulations unequivocally mandates, without exception, that no contract shall be valid unless it complies with the

procurement regulations," states the petition.

Torres argues that Commonwealth law requires all government contracts be prepared by officials with the expenditure authority so that they can certify that the contract complies with procurement regulations, that the proposed contract is for public purpose, and that it does not abuse public funds.

"This basic procedure was not followed in connection with the special prosecutor contract," said the petition.

Torres' team states in its petition that AG Edward Manibusan signed the contract with the special prosecutor and therefore did not designate anyone to act as the expenditure authority in connection with the special prosecutor.

"The special prosecutor contract was not prepared by the attorney general as the document and its language clearly establishes the contract was prepared by the contractor. Next, there is no certification from the AG certifying the contract's compliance with procurement regulations," the petition stated.

In addition, the defense team argues that procurement regulations require the Finance secretary to approve the contract first and for the director of Procurement to sign off on it.

However, no documents have been produced showing that this requirement was complied with in regards to the special prosecutor's contract, the petition adds.

Mayor 'RB' Camacho shares achievements after 100 days in office



Mayor establishes coalition with regulatory agencies to promote the Adopt A Place program



Mayor RB Camacho and his team handing out fruits and water to trekkers at the annual Good Friday voyage up Mt. Tapochau



Traffic Rules training
MOS staff trained on traffic rules



Ethics training
MOS staff undergo ethics training facilitated by OPA



Field Operations Group shot during their morning routine roll call and team huddle before running down project assignments for the day



Field Operations Team hard at work at island beautification project sites



Mayor's Dog Control Program - Mayor RB has focused his efforts on strengthening his partnership with the Saipan Humane Society. He continues to meet with Dr. Whitney Collins who is a visiting Veterinarian and provides much needed pet services through the Society and the Mayor's facility in As Perdido.



Junk Car being picked up for transport to the recycling center

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho has hit the ground running in his first 100 days in office, and has tried his best to live up to his slogan of making "a safe community, safe village, and a clean island."

Since his inauguration last Jan. 9, Camacho has created the Adopt-A-Place program, developed a joint village inspection effort among regulatory agencies, established the Farmer Registry Program, is active with their ongoing field operations, has partnered with organizations to continue the progress and work of the Dog Control Program, issued 170 home number addresses, issued over 740 MOS IDs, continues to officiate marriages, and has conducted a couple of staff trainings.

Personally, Camacho said, his "report card is nice [so far]. To be honest, I'm not doing it to be recognized; I'm not doing it to take credit. I'm doing it because that's the reason why I ran for this office. I've been seeing it and this is my home and I see a lot of things that should have been done so these are the actions now that I'm taking.

"I'm not in office to compete with [anybody]. I just try my best to promote a safe community, safe village, and a clean island," he added.

His pride and joy, he said, is the Adopt-A-Place program, in which since January 29, five organizations have already stepped up and "adopted" a place to maintain.

"The reason [for this program] is because I know some people...that really want to contribute but opportunity has not been displayed for them to grab. So when I came out publicly about this, they started to come in. They want to take ownership."

The program is intended to empower people to be responsible and have a hand in the betterment of their community. The program is open to any group: nonprofits, religious, ethnic groups, or others—to "adopt" and maintain a place on the island.

His office is also collaborating with regulatory agencies and has worked with the Environmental Health & Disease Prevention, the CNMI Zoning Office, and the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Department of Public Works, DLNR Parks & Recreation, and the Department of Public Lands.

He said the importance of working together is because "my responsibility is the entire municipality. There are a lot of agencies. ...That's why I established this line of communication so that we can work together, instead of pushing each other—we only have one objective and that's to serve the people. It's for the people; it's not for the government. That's why I met everyone and the only one that I haven't met yet is the [Department of Public Safety] commissioner and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services] commissioner."

As for field operations, they have seen an 85% completion of secondary road repairs, approximately 128 junk vehicles have been towed to the recycling center, they continue to do debris removal (wood, tin, vegetation, metals, and household items, accomplished a large number of roadside clearings, and assisted with cleanups alongside the Division of Parks and Recreation at the airport bunkers by the tower and Marpi tourist sites.

With the Dog Control Program, his office has strengthened its partnership with Lauren Cabrera and her nonprofit organization, Saipan Humane Society. Over the past couple of months, visiting veterinarians have used the available space at the SMO Animal Shelter in As Perdido to conduct spay/neuter clinics that have served hundreds of pets.

Along with establishing local partnerships, he has also established a partnership with Dr. Taisho Watanabe, a veterinarian from Japan. Dog Control Program manager Martin Pangelinan Jr. was able to visit Japan to see the four veterinary hospitals that Watanabe operates.

"I thank all the supporters who have given me their vote of confidence to put me into this office and this is what I'm doing now. No promises—the words that I use are 'I'll do my very best,' because promises—I'm really hesitant to use those words. As my law enforcement professor said, 'Don't ever make promises because you might not fulfill them. The best words are 'I'll try my best,'" said Camacho.

As for his staff, Camacho said, "I have motivated staff—from admin, out to the field. Now, my staff, you hardly see requests for sick leave. I hardly hear complaints from the boys out there. When they come here, they're laughing. When they return and secure their equipment, they're still laughing. ...They know that I'm the mayor, but I don't put myself above them. I level myself to them. So, I go out there, sit with them...and I establish a good relationship with my employees." (Leigh Gases)



Guam Army National Guard
San Vicente Central Park



Saipan Eagle's Club
Gualo Rai Basketball Court



Alpha Kappa Rho (AKRHO)
Humanitarian Council
Aquarius Beach, Chalan Kanoa



Bwiibwii's Professional Lawncare Svcs,
Artman Environmental Corp. IPI CNMI
Makaka Beach, Garapan



IPI CNMI
San Antonio Beach



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BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



EPA encourages CNMI pursuit of 'Zero Waste'

Beginning with a visit to the islands by regional administrator Martha Guzman, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is encouraging residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to provide input on the pursuit of "Zero Waste" as a goal and solid waste management in the CNMI.

To kick off the initiative, Guzman joined CNMI Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang on Saipan last March 30 for a "Zero Waste" Visioning session. Guzman also toured the

Marpi Landfill on Saipan and Tinian solid waste facilities.

"Zero Waste" refers to the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials, without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.

"The EPA is proud to partner with CNMI in its pursuit of Zero Waste," said Guzman. "We support the CNMI planning team's community outreach efforts and are confident they will lead to more ef-

fective plans to reduce, reuse, recycle, compost, which will reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions."

At the same session, Palacios and Apatang signed a proclamation designating the week of March 27 to April 2 as CNMI Zero Waste Week, an ongoing effort to improve resource use, combat climate change, create jobs, and unlock economic development opportunities in the CNMI.

"Preserving our environment is a top priority for our islands. Achieving Zero Waste and implementing sustainable solid waste management practices in the CNMI is vital to the beauty and quality of life of our people," said Palacios. "We are grateful for

the partnership of the [EPA] and their contributions to the development of our CNMI Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan and the incorporation of Zero Waste Practices. We hope to continue building upon this partnership for the benefit of our community and our environment."

On April 18 and 19, CNMI's Interisland Solid Waste Task Force conducted a Zero Waste Visioning Workshop during which attendees reviewed recent collection and survey data, then discussed and identified solid waste management priorities and steps required to achieve zero waste. ISWTF has plans for future community input and island- and resource-specific follow-up meetings in the months ahead to sup-

port the development of a CNMI Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, including "Zero Waste" actions.

"Community participation and engagement are crucial in our mission to zero waste. I hope the Zero Waste Visioning Workshop garners the involvement needed to push our mission forward for a cleaner and greener CNMI," said Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan. "As we witness a change in climate and rising sea levels, it is essential to educate our community on the negative impacts that contribute to the concerns of global climate change; therefore, meaningful zero waste initiatives can make a difference in our communities."

The ISWTF, supported by the EPA, aims to have the CNMI Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan ready for incorporation into the next updated version of the CNMI's Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan on or before 2025. Once approved by the EPA, the plan will serve as the CNMI's guiding document for solid waste management and will allow CNMI access to \$56 million in Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act funding administered by the EPA to support critical solid waste disaster recovery projects. (EPA)

Robert Tenorio Torres

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P.O. Box 500730
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Claimant Bank of Guam

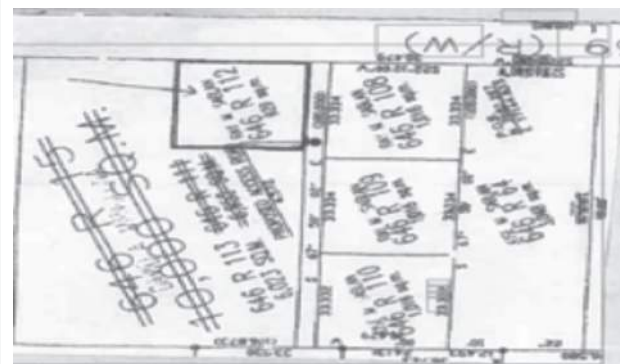
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF } Civil Action No. 17-0256 (R)
RAMON M. SABLAN, }
Deceased. } NOTICE OF AUCTION AND
JUDICIAL SALE OF
LOT 646 R 112

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of an Order made by the Court and entered in the above-titled action on the 21st of March 2023, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Claimant Bank of Guam in the above-titled action, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Property. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **June 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.**, at Robert T. Torres Law Office, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in the said judgment, to wit:

Lot 646 R 112, contains an area of 929 square meters. The property is located in the Chenchon area below the Rota Airport.

Notice: The property boundaries are subject to the buyer's survey at the buyer's own cost. The map below is the approximate location of the property, without any guarantees.



1. **Public Sale.** The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. **With Reserve.** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - a. withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before the sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c. to reject any and all bids.
4. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com.
5. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property will revert to the Claimant Bank of Guam.
6. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Estate Administrix reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres to schedule viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 13th day of April 2023.

/s/ Robert T. Torres
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

PROJECT ENGINEER: Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering (may be foreign equivalent). Design civil engineering aspects of major projects including review and analysis of drawings, technical specifications and other necessary documents to effectively prepare the costs for materials, labor and equipment. Making sure the project complies with legal requirements, especially health and safety. Travel is required once or twice a year to Guam/-continental U.S. to attend seminars or visit suppliers.

Send resume to:
PARAGON CORPORATION dba COREPLUS CONSTRUCTION
Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 10001, PMB 485, Saipan, MP 96950.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

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Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131



Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 23-059

Opening Date: April 11, 2023
Closing Date: April 24, 2023

POSITION TITLE: Fiscal Technician: Customer Service Representative
DEPARTMENT: COA/Customer Service/Call Center
LOCATION: Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY: \$23,923.00 - \$28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT: Not contracted
POSITION(S): Six (6)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- May supervise staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Receives and processes customer payments; screens and verifies check receipts; updates customer accounts; reviews customer account status for partial payment receipts; computes payment information; and issues payment slips.
- May provide field utility meter inspection, testing, investigation, repairs and service documentation.
- Enters and verifies account changes and correction transactions; researches, reconciles and compiles adjustment documentation; prepares billing adjustments; and/or documents customer account status.
- Balances cash and other payment receipts and prepares bank deposits; balances credit card receipts with merchant settlement records; prepares sales deposits; processes customer refund payments; may process and file payroll documents.
- Receives and responds to customer calls and inquiries; reviews account and payment information; explains customer billing regarding charge disputes; assists customers with new accounts, required documentation and application processing; processes work orders as required; and refers inquiries to appropriate resource.
- Organizes and files revenue receipts, change vouchers, and related reports; maintains filing system; and prepares listings, schedules and activity reports.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and 4 years of utility accounts or fiscal support experience.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Cash handling practices (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Receiving, posting and reconciling payments, cash receipts or account information; Verifying and updating account or utility meter information; Providing customer service and responding to inquiries; Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage and testing (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching, reconciling and preparing account adjustments and related documentation; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Researching account information and providing information regarding billing disputes; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing: Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cuc.gov.gu

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CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

4-Year Federal Aid Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP)



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honorable Governor Arnold I. Palacios and the Honorable Lt. Governor David M. Apatang through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) would like to notify the general public of the CNMI's 4-Year Federal Aid Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP).

A copy of the plan can be obtained at the DPW Technical Services Highway Office and from the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority for review and comments. Written comments pertaining to the CNMI DPW FHWA Funded Projects must be submitted directly to DPW TSD Highway Office, at the Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, 2nd Flr, Suite 211 on Beach Road or via email to lms.dpwtsd@gmail.com or ldcs.dpw@gmail.com. For COTA's FTA Funded Projects please submit comments to the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) located at Lower Base Dr., Saipan or via email to alfredac.maratita@gov.mp no later than May 22, 2023, 2:00 pm.


Should you have any questions regarding the TTIP, you may contact Ms. Lorraine Villagomez, Highway Administrator or Ms. Lauren Sanchez, Federal Program Coordinator of the Department of Public Works Technical Services Division-Highway Office at (670) 234-9828 and for COTA's FTA Funded Projects, you may contact Mrs. Alfreda Camacho Maratita, Special Assistant for Public Transportation of the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority at (670) 664-2682 or via email to alfredac.maratita@gov.mp.

I. CNMI DEPARTMENT OF Public Works Technical Services Division Highway Office 4-YearTerritorial Transportation Improvement Plan
PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2023 FEDERAL	FY2024 FEDERAL	FY2025 FEDERAL	FY2026 FEDERAL	
ALL	ALL	FY	Highway Planning, Technology Transfer & Training Activities Program	Admin	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	
ALL	ALL	OJTSS	On The Job Training Support Services	Admin	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	
ALL	ALL	NSTI	National Summer Transportation Institute	Admin	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	
I	Songsong	10	Route 10 Drainage upgrade from Pinatang Park to CUC Power Plant - Phase II	PE-Design					
				Construction		\$ 1,000,000.00			
				CM					
I	Songsong	10	Hazard Elimination - Phase II	PE-Design					
				Construction	\$ 2,000,000.00				
				CM					
I	Dugi	103	Route 103 - Roadway Improvements	PE-Design					
				Construction		\$ 1,000,000.00			
				CM					
II	Island-Wide	201/202/26	Hazard Elimination	Construction	\$ 500,000.00				
II	San Jose	205	Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design					
				Construction		\$ 2,100,000.00			
III	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Chalan Pale Arnold Hazard Elimination Chalan Kiya to Quartermaster	PE					
				ROW					
				Construction		\$ 2,500,000.00			
				CM					
III	As Perdido	32	As Perdido Road Safety Improvements	PE-Design	\$ 200,000.00				
				Construction		\$ 1,000,000.00			
				CM-DPW					
III	Christo Rai - Micro Beach	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 4 - Roundabout	PE-Design					
				Construction	\$ 1,000,000.00				
				CM	\$ 200,000.00				
III	Talofofo	36	Route 36 - Winward/Chalan Kalabera Dev Phase I	Construction	\$ 4,000,000.00				
III	Airport Road	302/304	Naftan Road and Flametree Road Improvements						
				Construction	\$ 2,000,000.00				
				CM					
III	Capitol Hill	310	Route 310 Tapochao Road and drainage Improvements	PE-Design					
				Construction		\$ 500,000.00			
				CM					
III	Gualo Rai	317	Route 317 - Gualo Rai Road and Drainage Improvements	PE-Design					
				Construction			\$ 1,350,000.00		
				CM-DPW					
III	Island-Wide	30	Marpi Speed TablesConstruction	Construction				\$ 1,000,000.00	
		304	Dandan Resurfacing	Construction			\$ 1,500,000.00		
		30	Navy Hill to Puerto Rico Resurfacing	Construction				\$ 1,000,000.00	
		301	Koblerville Road Hazard Elimination	Construction				\$ 1,000,000.00	
		35	Airport Road Roundabout	Construction		\$ 1,000,000.00			
TOTAL OBLIGATION					\$ 11,445,000.00	\$ 10,645,000.00	\$ 4,395,000.00	\$ 4,545,000.00	
Estimated Carry Over Prior Fiscal Year TOTAL:						\$ 603,225.00	\$ 4,175,712.02	\$ 233,238.02	\$ 179,838.02
FMIS Unobligated Funds (Closed-Out Projects/De-obligated Funds)							\$ 2,444,086.0	\$ -	\$ -
OJTSS/NSTI						\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
Annual Allocation:						\$ 4,130,112.00	\$ 4,213,440.00	\$ 4,296,600.00	\$ 4,379,760.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION (not including Other Funds)						\$ 4,778,337.00	\$ 10,878,238.02	\$ 4,574,838.02	\$ 4,604,598.02
TOTAL ALLOCATION - Coronavirus Recovery Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act						\$ 842,375.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL ALLOCATION - Earmarked Funds						\$ 10,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL ALLOCATION - other (ER, Special Funds, etc.)						\$ 15,620,712.02	\$ 10,878,238.02	\$ 4,574,838.02	\$ 4,604,598.02
TOTAL OBLIGATION (not including other funds)						\$ 11,445,000.00	\$ 10,645,000.00	\$ 4,395,000.00	\$ 4,545,000.00
FISCAL ALLOCATION TO HQ (Not including Other Funds)						\$ 4,175,712.02	\$ 233,238.02	\$ 179,838.02	\$ 59,598.02

II. Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Transportation Improvement Plan
PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	FIXED ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2023 FEDERAL	FY2024 FEDERAL	FY2025 FEDERAL	FY2026 FEDERAL
	SAIPAN		Operations Asssitance and Program Administration		\$ 1,893,872.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,545,000.00	\$ 1,591,350.00
	SAIPAN		Purchase of Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations			\$ 2,373,645.00		
	SAIPAN		Purchase of Four (4) ADA Accessible Transit Vans		\$ 420,000.00			
	SAIPAN		Ferry Feasibility Study and Transportation Masterplan	Professional Services	\$ 800,000.00			
	SAIPAN		CNMI COVID-19 Research Development Grant		\$ 300,000.00			
	SAIPAN	ALL	A/E Design and Installation of 187 Bus Stop Shelters	PE Design	\$ 100,000.0			
				Construction		\$ 3,520,000.00		
				CM		\$ 880,000.00		
	SAIPAN	3	A/E Design and Construction of COTA's Bus Transfer Stations at Northern Marianas College, Garapan, and Kagman	PE Design	\$ 80,000.00			
				Construction		\$ 750,000.00		
				CM		\$ 70,000.00		
	SAIPAN		A/E Design and Construction of COTA's Covered Bus Parking at the Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility	PE Design		\$ 100,000.00		
				Construction			\$ 2,200,000.00	
				CM			\$ 700,000.00	
TOTAL OBLIGATION					\$ 3,593,872.00	\$ 5,320,000.00	\$ 2,900,000.00	\$ 1,591,350.00




COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BID

CUC-IFB-23-006



Isley Field and Obyan Wells Granular Activated Carbon Water Filtration System Construction Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Isley Field and Obyan Wells Granular Activated Carbon Water Filtration System Construction Project for IF 208, OB 6, OB 19 and OB 23 in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of Owner Furnished GAC units, chain link fence removal and installation of new chain link fence, connection of the new waterline to existing waterline, connection of the influent and effluent lines of the GAC units to the existing waterline.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Economic Development Authority (USEDA) and OIA. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEDPA and OIA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **210 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **March 31, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-23-006, Isley Field and Obyan Wells Granular Activated Carbon Water Filtration System Construction Project”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 25, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.


All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 7, 2023** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer, Water/Wastewater via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Dennis Formalejo, Engineer, Senior via email at dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator




COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-23-013

RELOCATION OF EXISTING 0.065 MG MODULAR TANK IN KAGMAN



The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Relocation of Existing 0.065 MG Modular Tank in Kagman, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of furnishing all labor, supervision, equipment and materials for the relocation of an existing water tank within San Vicente Water tank site to the existing Kagman booster pump station site. Work includes, but is not limited to disassembly and relocation of an existing 65,000-gallon modular fiberglass potable water tank; demolition and disposal of existing temporary tank plinth at San Vicente Tank site; construction of tank foundation; installation of relocated tank, piping and appurtenances; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the us Public Law 117-2 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-23-013, Relocation of the Existing 0.065 MG Modular Water Tank in Kagman”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.


This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 19, 2023** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer via email at alley.reyes@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

DR. DALLAS M. PEAVEY, JR.
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF CRM PUBLIC HEARING

THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE SAIPAN CAMPUS & FACILITIES PROJECT

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following project:


CRM Major Siting Application No. CRM-MS2023-0005 – The Northern Marianas College (NMC) is proposing to construct and enhance the Northern Marianas College Saipan Campus and Facilities on Tract No. 21699 in As Terlaje, Saipan. The property contains an area of about 66,385 square meters or 6.63 hectares, more or less. The project will be completed in seven (7) phases beginning with the Student Center Building. The Student Center building is a 2-story building consisting of a library and services, student dining, financial aid office, testing center, CNMI archives, project PROA tutoring and mentoring, student success and early intervention, ASNMC office/club space, student activities and leadership, event spaces, international student center, disability support services.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 5:00PM, at the DCRM Learning Center 3rd Floor, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Virtual public participation is available via video conferencing through Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/6706648315>. Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend virtually or in-person, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp. The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the construction and enhancement of the Northern Marianas College Saipan Campus and Facilities project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management




Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-23-018

OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC ROTA's ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS & OPERATIONS



The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The IFB package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. For registration inquiries, please email Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-23-018, Office Space Lease for CUC Rota's Administrative Functions and Operations.”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 23, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alvin King, CUC Rota Resident Manager at email address alvin.king@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

DR. DALLAS M. PEAVEY JR.
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

UOG names three finalists for university president

The University of Guam Presidential Search Committee announced yesterday the names of the three finalists for its 12th president. The finalists are Anita Borja Enriquez, DBA;

Mary A.Y. Okada, Ed.D.; and LeGene Quesenberry, J.D.

Profiles and curriculum vitae for each of the candidates are available on the UOG website at: https://www.uog.edu/administration/office-of-the-president/presidential-search/search_finalists/index.

“We are pleased with the high-level talent and caliber of these finalists,” said search committee chair Agapito “Pete” A. Diaz. “Each candidate has a wide range of experiences and executive expertise, and we are excited with what they each po-

tentially have to offer toward the continued progress and growth of the university.”

The finalists will be invited to visit the campus within the next few weeks to meet with UOG students, faculty, staff, administrators, and the Board of Regents, and other stakeholders. The dates of their visits will be announced later.



Enriquez



Quesenberry



Okada

6 high schools will face off at 37th AG's Cup on May 5

The 37th Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition will be held on Friday, May 5, 9:30am at the Guma Hustisia Supreme Court.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan, along with this year's Steering Committee, are proud to announce that this year there are six high schools participating and they include: Kagman High School, Marianas High School, Mount Carmel School, Saipan International School, Saipan Southern High School, and Tinian Jr./Sr. High School.

The 37th Annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition will focus on affirmative action in higher education. The issue is before the U.S. Supreme Court and is significant as it will have an effect on the Northern Mariana Islands as students seek college admission in the U.S.:

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments on two cases regarding the issue of affirmative action in college admissions: (1) *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* and (2) *Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina*.

At the heart of these two cases is decadeslong precedent regarding affirmative action. Affirmative action began

as a government remedy to the effects of longstanding discrimination against minorities and women and has consisted of policies, programs, and procedures that give limited preferences to such groups in job hiring, admission to institutions of higher education, the awarding of government contracts, and other social benefits. Typically, affirmative action in the educational arena is a policy which uses race as a basis for admission.

Manibusan welcomes the public to attend the event and support the students of the CNMI.

The Steering Committee encourages the public to arrive early to go through screening at the entrance. Everyone is reminded to avoid bringing prohibited items to Guma Hustisia to avoid unnecessary delay. Such prohibited items include firearms, knives, pressurized sprays, weapons-explosives, sharp objects, tools of the trade, illegal drugs and tobacco, disabling chemicals, etc.

For more information on the 37th Attorney General's Cup, contact Andrea Manese at the Office of the Attorney General's Civil Division at 237-7500 or through email at andrea_manese@cnmioag.org. (PR)

Open call for history conference proposals

The Marianas History Conference Steering Committee invites the submission of papers and session proposals for the Marianas History Conference, scheduled for Sept. 1 - 3, 2023, on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Submissions can be made at the following link: bit.ly/mhccproposals. Deadline for submissions is June 9, 2023.

This year's theme is “Healing the Wounds of History.”

“As the world continues to heal from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reminded of the value of healing in the Mariana Islands archipelago and the lessons from history that continue to guide us during this pivotal time,” states a news release from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

Aiming to further contribute

to and engage in a constructive process of understanding and healing, the 6th Marianas History Conference will center presentations and discussion around the theme of Healing the Wounds of History. Historic research, analysis, and interpretations will be presented in an all-inclusive conference and serve as a collective effort toward the integration of shared histories and memories across the archipelago.


While all historical topics related to the Marianas are welcome, attention will be paid to Marianas' healing practices; health care issues; the prevalence of diseases that have plagued the islands; sources of environmental contamination; and all sources of historical division in need of remedy, including the separation of Guåhan from the rest of the Marianas. (PR)

The search committee received 31 local, national, and international applicants by its March 17 deadline and narrowed the list to five semifinalists. After an extensive interview process, the three finalists were selected.

UOG president Thomas W. Krise previously announced his retirement on Aug. 5.

The UOG Board of Regents appointed the PSC to coordinate the search for the new university president. Eight members comprise the search

committee. Diaz also serves as a member of the BOR. Other members of the committee include: regent Roland Certeza, faculty senate president Christopher Garcia-Santos, current BOR chair Liza J. Provido, Student Government Association president Kyona Rivera, past BOR chairs and community representatives P. Sonny Ada and Antoinette “Toni” D. Sanford, and Society of Emeritus Professors and Retired Scholars member Dr. Hiro Kurashina. (UOG)



Want to sell your New and Used Furniture, Tools, Home Appliances, and other items? We Buy and Sell them!

For inquiries, please contact Steven Wang at (670) 288-8606. We are located along Chalan Monsignor Martinez just before the road leading to Paradise Hotel in Koblerville. We are open from Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm, Saturday, 2pm-6pm, and Sunday, 10pm-3pm.



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: DPW23-RFP No.: 42300067

SUBMISSION DATE: May 15, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“Architectural and Engineering Design for Supply, Delivery, & Installation of Childcare Provider Playground Equipment for the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs Saipan, CNMI”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after April 14, 2023 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **May 02, 2023, 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office No. 207 Building Code Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 10, 2023** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

S/ MARY M.S. SABLON
Secretary, DCCA

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF
PROCUREMENT SERVICES



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 | Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
Tel. No. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
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NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of April 21, 2023

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	12/29/2022 CRM-MD2022-0005	Temporary Beach Concession	Garapan, Saipan	Minor Development	ON HOLD*
2. Terracotta Hotel Six Holdings, LLC.	3/7/2023 CRM-MS2023-0004	Transfer of Interest/Renovation of Hotel One	Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved* 4/18/2023
3. Northern Marianas College (NMC)	3/10/2023 CRM-MS2023-0005	New Construction of Student Center Building	As Terlaje, Saipan	Major Siting	Certified Complete* 4/20/2023
4. Department of Public Works (DPW)	3/10/2023 CRM-MS2023-0006	Sugar Dock Reconstruction & Dredging Project	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Major Siting	Application Review*
5. Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA)	3/10/2023 SMS-2003-X-007-A1	Demolition & Construction of Saipan International Commuter Terminal	I Fadang, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review
6. Ships Exploration & Discovery dba Ships	3/16/2023 CRM-MD2023-0015	Exploration of WWII battlefields in the Pacific using emerging technologies	Tanapag, Saipan	Minor Development	Approved* 4/11/2023
7. CNMI United Investment Corporation, Inc.	3/20/2023 APC2023-0029	Temporary staging & stockpiling, ponding basin & backfilling (After-the-Fact)	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	ON HOLD*
8. Saipan Sunset Cruise, Inc.	3/27/2023 CRM-MD2023-0021	Dry-Dock	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 4/5/2023
9. Isa Villas II De, LLC.	4/5/2023 SMS-2017-X-007-A1	Reduction of Phase II of the Isa Villas II, LLC Multi-Family Housing Development	Capitol Hill, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review
10. Windsurfing Saipan, Inc. dba Sea Wind Marine Sports Club	4/13/2023 SLR-2023-003	Commercial windsurfing, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding & snorkeling	Saipan & Managaha Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
11. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)	4/14/2023 SSM-2023-009	Garapan Sewer Mains & Manholes Replacement	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Discord leaks show the perils of over-classification

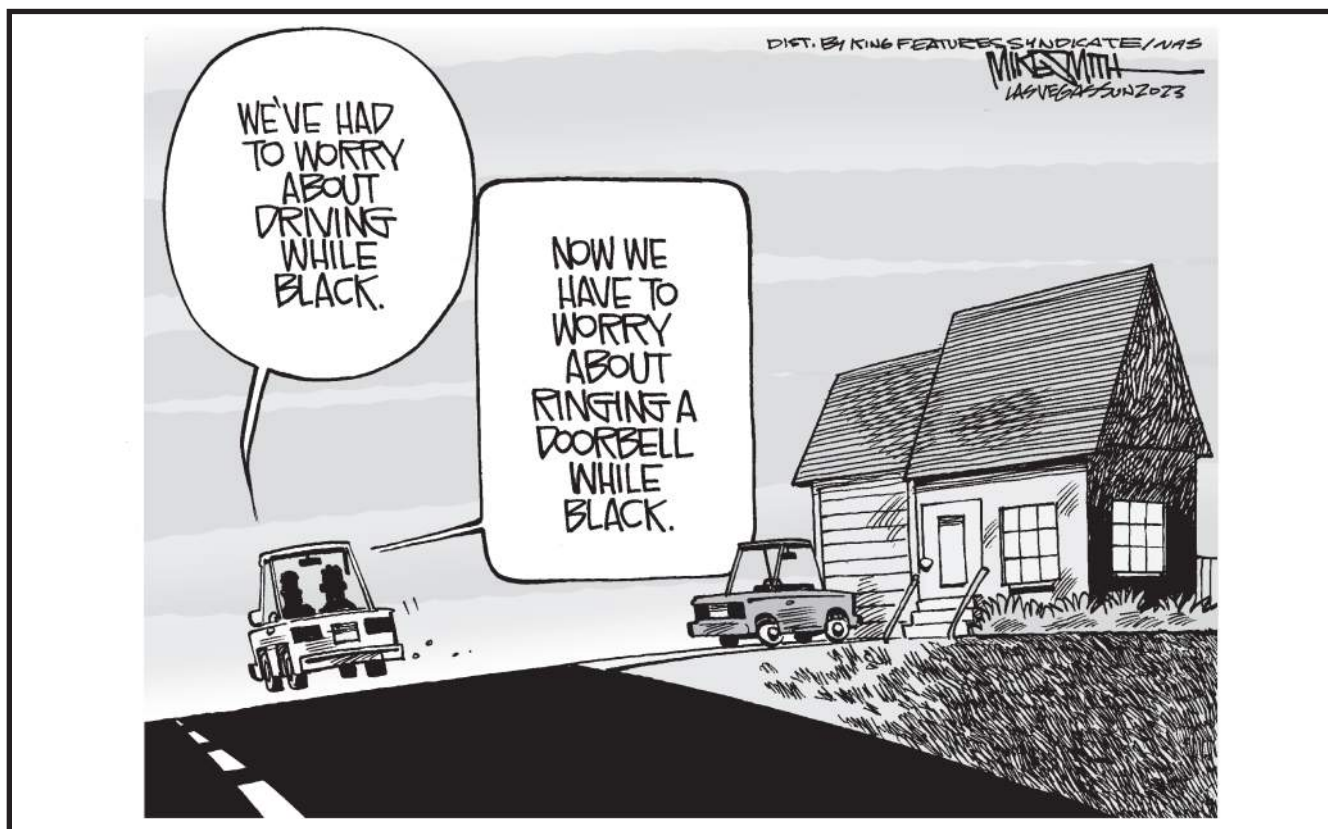
The arrest of a 21-year-old member of the Massachusetts Air National Guard for allegedly leaking classified intelligence material is a startling twist in a case that has damaged relations with allies, exposed concerns about the war in Ukraine, and provided other countries with valuable information about the United States' spying methods. President Joe Biden's administration should conduct a thorough probe of the vulnerabilities that allowed the breach to occur—starting with why so many people across the government require access to such information in the first place.

Federal authorities believe that Airman Jack Teixeira is responsible for posting hundreds of pages of documents on Discord, a social media site popular among video gamers. Much of the material was top secret and had been circulated by the CIA and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Teixeira appears to have printed out the documents while working inside a secure facility at a military base in Massachusetts, then taken them away without being detected.

The fallout is still unclear. The documents reveal U.S. doubts about Ukraine's ability to recapture territory from Russia, which could increase pressure on Western governments to scale back involvement in the war. The leak has embarrassed the Biden administration, affirming the widely known but little-publicized fact that the U.S. spies even on its close allies. While it appears less extensive than other recent breaches—such as the 2013 revelations by former contractor Edward Snowden about National Security Agency surveillance programs—it underscores the continued vulnerability of the government's system for guarding secret information.

So what should be done? The Pentagon will doubtless scrutinize the breakdown and tighten procedures in facilities that handle sensitive information. But there are limits to that approach. Efforts to further lock down hundreds of U.S. installations worldwide would be inordinately expensive—with no guarantee of success. Tighter restrictions on certain material would face the same trade-off: some gain in security, but at the cost of less efficiency, less intelligence sharing, and an impaired ability to respond quickly to threats.

A better approach would be to reduce the number of positions that grant high-level security clearances. More than 4 million Americans have such a clearance, and some 1.3 million are allowed to see top secret material. Those numbers have been driven, in turn, by the proliferation of pointlessly classified information, much of which has little or no national security value. Senators from both parties and the director of national intelligence have called for a governmentwide review of over-classification. This should be an urgent prior-

See **DISCORD** on Page 11

Maybe AI needs to write its own dictionary

An explosion of interest in artificial intelligence is irking a lot of people concerned about the encroachment by computers into human domains such as visual arts, music, and literature. More recently, even the terms we use to describe these systems don't sit well with some who take issue with digging up old words for new uses or anthropomorphizing machines.

Both phenomena were already common well before electric circuits started writing poems, so much of the recent drama is based on fear rather than logic. Which is suitable: Machines don't feel fear, and human logic often fails.

Even the term artificial intelligence is taken as an affront by sentient beings when it's ascribed to non-living objects. It's a valid point, one that's been argued for centuries even as philosophers struggle to define "intelligence." To that end, computer scientists such as Alan Turing, famed for helping crack German cryptography during World War II, have speculated how we might test whether a machine could mimic humans well enough to fool us, and devised The Imitation Game for that purpose.

"The original question, 'Can machines think?' I believe to be too meaningless to deserve discussion," Turing wrote in 1950. "Nevertheless I believe that at the end of the century the use of words and general educated opinion will have altered so much that one will be able to speak of machines thinking without expecting to be contradicted."

He was, unfortunately, wrong. The debate is far from settled, and humans constantly contradict each other—to many, the words machine and thinking are oxymoronic. As for the use of words being altered to match our progress on the topic, well, that's where humans seem to struggle.

After "intelligence" and "thinking," the expression "hallucination" is next in the firing line. When an AI tool, such as ChatGPT, confidently makes a statement that isn't true, it is said to be hallucinating. But critics are quick to say that the machine isn't doing this at all; it's simply making things up.

They're right. But there are a few problems with this rush to judgment. First of all, as executives at Alphabet Inc. and Microsoft Corp. have been at pains to point out, chatbots are not search engines, they're merely trained to mimic human prose, not serve up correct information. Getting a fact wrong is neither success or failure. The other issue is that a hallucination is, by definition, "an unfounded or mistaken impression or notion."

More broadly, though, the outrage over assigning old words to new use cases is unwarranted.

Human language is living and constantly evolving. For centuries, we have engaged in anthropomorphism—attributing human characteristics to non-human beings. We name our pets, even when it's the only animal in the house and can't speak. We assume dolphins are happy because their long mouths look like a smile. And we impose human-like judgments such as cunning (cats), loyalty (dogs), and bravery (lions).

Non-living beings get the same treatment. Computer software is said to have bugs—a term that arose when American computer sci-

By **TIM CULPAN**
Bloomberg Opinion

Tim Culpan is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering technology in Asia. Previously, he was a technology reporter for Bloomberg News.



entist Grace Hopper found a moth trapped in a piece of equipment—and engine power is still measured in horses. There's no rodent on your desk, even though you rest your hands on it daily, and you may be caught red-handed without having butchered a poached animal.

This is what happens when a computer is asked to write its own dictionary:

And we still do this today, with some AI systems described as being built with neural networks. They do not, of course, have neurons or neural pathways. In their physical form, AI neural networks are structures that define the relationship between data—in binary form—held by the transistors within a chip. We accept the term "iPhone keyboard" although no such thing exists, as Steve Jobs proudly announced.

If people are to fend off the rise of the machines, they'll need to do what they do best: evolve. That means accepting that even our language shifts over time according to new circumstances. In fact, this linguistic adaptability could be precisely what makes humans more resilient. Computers are said to be like mischievous genies: They'll do just what you ask for, even if that's not what you meant. Ask even the smartest chatbot like OpenAI's ChatGPT to explain a word, and it'll provide a text-book definition—the one we gave it.

And if humans don't like the idea of having terms people use for each other being applied to computers that are starting to mimic us, then there's an alternative: Get the machines to define themselves. I tried this with ChatGPT and the humanity-purists may be disappointed the results were rather anthropomorphic. Among the eight examples it offered was mindset drift, as we defined above: The gradual change in the way an AI model perceives and interacts with the world over time, often due to exposure to new data or changing conditions.

It's not surprising that many terms are derivative of what we invented ourselves. Humans have thousands of years of life and evolution to build upon, machines have only the history we give them, plus the ability to hallucinate.

Still, what the bot presented offers a useful middle ground. We can look at each term, such as algorithm fatigue, and have a guess at what it may mean. Yet since it was a computer, not a human, concocting the definition then we have only the bot to blame. And if machines aren't sentient, then really, they're blameless anyway.

If humans refuse to adapt their language in a world where computers are more prevalent, then a far worse scenario will emerge—one where machines define things on their own terms.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How could a 21-year-old leak national security data without the Pentagon knowing?

Speaking about the recent intelligence leak of classified documents by a member of the U.S. military, President Joe Biden downplayed the significance, remarking, “There’s nothing contemporaneous that I’m aware of that is of great consequence.”

While it makes sense that the president would attempt to soft-pedal the fallout, the truth is that the Biden administration, Department of Defense and the U.S. intelligence community still don’t know the extent of what information is “out in the wild,” to use a term for classified information that has been put into public view. Most media organizations have access to about 50 documents, but the leak may comprise “hundreds and hundreds” of intelligence assessments, so our understanding of what happened and what is at risk may continue to evolve.

When a 21-year-old Massachusetts Air National Guardsman named Jack Teixeira leaked these documents on Discord, an online gaming platform, he significantly compromised U.S. national security and that of other nations, such as Ukraine, in both the short and long term.

In the near term, Ukraine is going to have to tweak its battlefield approach, revisiting operational plans and preparing for a potential Russian response that targets Ukrainian weaknesses exposed in the leaked documents, especially air defense. There must be a palpable sense of betrayal among Ukrainian units fighting courageously for survival, knowing that their safety was endangered by a young man’s desire to show off to his friends.

Another immediate-term objective will be for the United

States military and intelligence community to review security clearance access and be far more restrictive in who can access highly sensitive, classified information. More troubling than the leak is that these documents were circulating online across platforms for weeks before the U.S. government finally became aware of the breach.

Over the longer term, there are real effects on our relationship with crucial allies such as South Korea and Israel, both of whom were quite likely shocked by revelations of U.S. spying on highly sensitive conversations. While all countries know that it happens, being presented with the evidence at the same time as the rest of the world can feel like a gut punch.

The documents included an assessment of Taiwan’s ability to defend itself in the face of a Chinese invasion. The classified documents suggested that the mainland’s People’s Liberation Air Force would easily establish air superiority against an overmatched Taiwan, which lacks the air defense systems to detect Chinese missile launches accurately. There are concerns that the documents could embolden Beijing to accelerate plans to invade Taiwan, seeing a short window of time before Taipei can build its military capabilities as an effective deterrent.

Some rifts with allies are less consequential but will still take effort to repair. When former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden released troves of classified documents in 2013, it was revealed that the U.S. was spying on then-Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany. The relationship between Washington and Berlin never

By COLIN P. CLARKE

Los Angeles Times

Colin P. Clarke is the director of research at the Soufan Group, an intelligence and security consulting firm in New York City.



fully recovered while Merkel remained in office.

The latest case is unusual because of the motive. Typically, intelligence services consider the motivations using an acronym known as MICE (money, ideology, coercion, ego). This probably fits into that last category, but even in that case, it’s nontraditional when compared with some other infamous cases motivated by ego—for example, Robert Hanssen, an FBI agent who spied for the Soviet Union because he felt unappreciated by the U.S. bureau, passed over for several promotions.

In spite of the high-profile leaks that have occurred over the last decade, most people still don’t realize how easy it is for something like this to occur, even with the tremendous damage inflicted on the U.S. national security apparatus. The United States spends so much time, energy and resources on counter-terrorism, chasing jihadis around the globe and operating a global counter-terrorism campaign.

But insider threats can be just as nefarious, especially because the effect lasts longer than the event itself. And to protect against the latter, the U.S. government seems content that preventive measures for safeguarding classified information barely go beyond hourlong online training modules offered several times per year.

As a “cyber transport systems journeyman,” Teixeira edded access to certain classified systems. But he has no reason to have access to sensitive documents about tactical developments on the battlefield in Ukraine. Pentagon spokesperson Brig. Gen. Patrick S. Ryder stated that Department of Defense officials are reviewing “a variety of factors” in terms of how classified material is safeguarded and will look at ways to update distribution lists and assess how and where intelligence is shared.

But instead of being treated as merely a nuisance, the insider threat must be taken more seriously. This should include a wholesale reevaluation of how individuals are screened for security clearances as well as a reevaluation of compartmentalization—who should have access or “need to know” about specific programs, operations and plans.

The truth is that we don’t yet know how serious the consequences of this leak could be, but early indications are that there will be serious fallout. The U.S. government needs to get to work on preventing future leaks and must do so immediately, with the same sense of urgency as other pressing national security threats.

Gun Violence: Prevalent and Relevant

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



“Give sorrow words, the grief that does not speak knits up the o’er wrought heart and bids it break.”

—W. Shakespeare in *Macbeth*

The past two news weeks carried much gun-related violence news. A headline in the Saipan Tribune this past Monday, April 17, 2023: “DOC chief recalls service firearms.” Two editorial headlines on the Opinion page of the same date in the Saipan Tribune read: “The gun debate isn’t hopeless. Just look at Tennessee,” “We can’t be speechless about school shootings.” Find them and read them for updates on the Tennessee Three.

Some facts divulged in recent news articles and TV interviews: Some from Mr. Guttenberg, father of a daughter murdered in the Connecticut Parkland School slaughter 19 years ago: Guns are now the leading cause of death for American children and young adults.

In Akron, Ohio, eight cops shot 94 bullets at Jayland Walker, 46 bullets hit his body. He was handcuffed after he was down.

The cause for them stopping him was that a license plate light bulb was out on the rear of his car. A grand jury recently determined the eight officers were justified in their action. No charges were filed.

Nineteen years ago 2% of guns sold in the U.S. were AR 15s. In 2022 AR 15’s are 25% of all guns sold in the United States.

Please feel free to fact check any statements made in this article.

In the litany that follows I use “Call and Response” and “Voice One and Voice Two” techniques:

AR-15 Assault Rifles: American Reality

(15+ targets by American assassins, a litany of sorrow)

public elementary schools - can you name two?
Christian elementary schools - Covenant, three 9 year olds
public middle schools - can you name two?
public high schools - can you name the most recent?
colleges and universities - can you name two?
Christian churches - can you name two?
Jewish temples - remember Pittsburgh?
grocery and liquor stores - can you name two?
nightclubs - NYC ? and Florida?
banks - most recently Georgia?
public parks - can you name two?
city streets - can you name two cities?
music celebrations - Las Vegas and ?
15 places I missed - can you name two?
How many assassins used AR 15s? name two.

Call, Voice One; Response, Voice Two

Gun Deaths Second Amendment Breaths

(Sonnet in the Saipan Tribune on April 16, 2018)

Death across dark waters death throughout the land
Death despite our laws big guns in the wrong hands
Death across the oceans death on ships on high seas
Off the Horn of Africa pirates do as they please
In schools churches campuses and shopping malls
Lunatics slaughter innocents bounce bullets off walls
Teenagers lead demonstrations across the nation
Congress drags its legal feet in partisan frustration
Meanwhile where will the next gun slaughter be
Who will take the blame for this senseless tragedy
There are many different answers to this question
Which all bring up more problems and suggestions
The Second Amendment needs clarification today
Support legislation that takes assault rifles away.

It doesn’t seem like much has changed since 2018. Today is April 19, 2023. Three 9-year-olds and three adults were shot and killed last week in a Christian school in Nashville, Tennessee. Weapon?

DISCORD

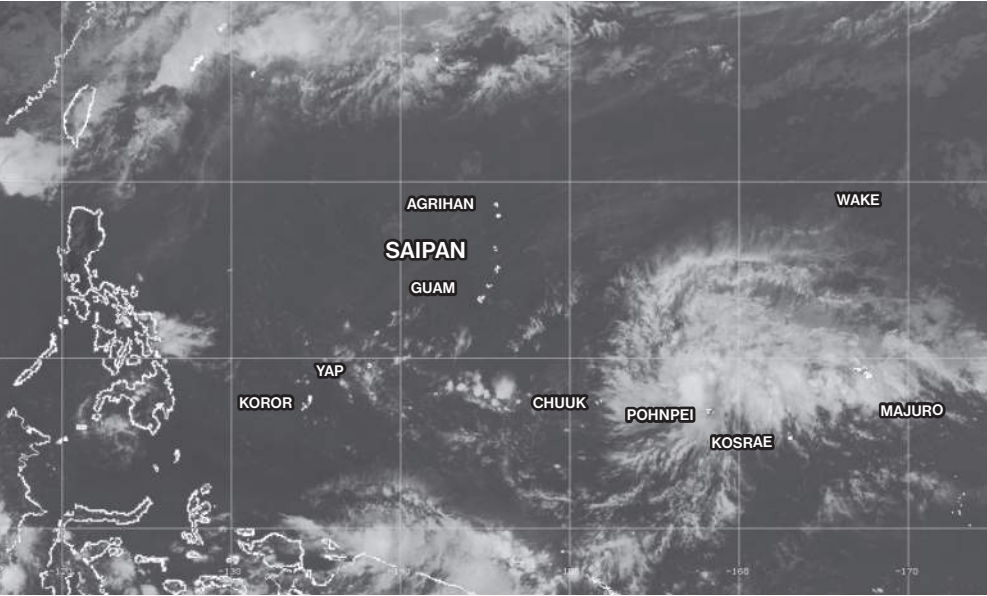
From Page 10

ity. If less material were classified, fewer people would need clearances.

No system is foolproof, so deterrence is crucial. People working in national-security fields should be reminded of the consequences of betraying the public trust. Over the past decade, the government’s record for punishing leakers has been spotty at best, from the failure to arrest Snowden to President Barack Obama’s decision to commute the sentence of former Army Pvt. Chelsea Manning. In some quarters, their crimes are even seen as commendable. Perhaps this encourages others to think such treachery isn’t grave. They need to be disabused.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
85°	77°	85°	77°	85°	77°	86°	77°	86°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:00 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows only a few showers within the Marianas Waters, with isolated showers east of the Guam and Rota waters. Satellite suggests these showers extend northward to the east of Tinian and Saipan, while the radar beam is likely overshooting them. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet from just north

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°	
Yap	Isolated Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	88° / 78°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	5:57 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:32 AM	7:34 PM	-
Saturday	7:16 AM	8:31 PM	-
Sunday	8:02 AM	9:28 PM	-
Monday	8:52 AM	10:24 PM	-
Tuesday	9:44 AM	11:18 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼ °F
Auckland	Light Rain/Wind	70° / 65°	
Beijing	Cloudy	60° / 45°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	79° / 74°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 72°	
London	Showers	54° / 40°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	80° / 57°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	95° / 81°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	68° / 55°	
Miami	Isolated Thunderstorms	80° / 72°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	62° / 50°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	74° / 50°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	60° / 45°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy/Wind	66° / 55°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	72° / 49°	
Salem	Sunny	85° / 56°	
San Francisco	Sunny	60° / 46°	
Seoul	Sunny	75° / 50°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	77° / 54°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	85° / 60°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:23 AM	Low Tide	0.81	
7:49 AM	High Tide	2.02	
2:49 PM	Low Tide	-0.06	
9:22 PM	High Tide	1.96	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 16, 2023

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW9308	3:45AM	7:30AM	4, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	TW9307	9:00PM	2:45AM+1	3, 6
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Behind the uniform: The opportunity of a lifetime



U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Sean Kingzio, a Palauan native from 7th Engineer Support Battalion assigned to Marine Corps Engineer Detachment - Palau, poses for a photo at Peleliu, Republic of Palau, April 3, 2023.

CPL. CASANDRA LAMAS

By CPL. CASANDRA LAMAS
1ST MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

PELELIU, Republic of Palau—The islands of Palau welcome back one of their own, Lance Cpl. Sean Kingzio, born in Koror on March 2, 2002. He is presently serving with the 7th Engineer Support Battalion assigned to Marine Corps Engineer Detachment - Palau.

“Growing up in Palau we didn’t have any internet, so we were just stuck watching TV or playing outside. My siblings and I would go out riding bikes, and since my dad

had a boat, we would go twice a month to Rock Island to bar-becue there,” said Kingzio.

Kingzio moved to Hilo, Hawaii, on Jan. 31, 2015, to care of his ill grandfather. In Hawaii, Kingzio was first introduced to the internet and became very accustomed to the United States’ generation of technology. At the age of 19 years old, Sean weighed 211 lbs before he decided to enlist into the U.S. Marine Corps.

“My brother-in-law, who is also Palauan, joined the Marine Corps in 2019 and suggested that I join since I wanted to go to college but didn’t have

money,” explained Kingzio.

Kingzio worked hard to drop his weight to 190 lbs so that he could ship to Marine Corps recruit training. His mother, Pamela Evans, pushed him every day to help him join, and he finally enlisted in the Marine Corps on March 21, 2021. Since enlisting, he has served in the Marine Corps for two years and intends to continue his service after completing his first four-year contract. His recruiter had informed him of all the possibilities of traveling, but never expected the possibility of going back to his native land.

“My first deployment was supposed to be to Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, but a month before leaving, they switched me over to MCED-Palau,” said Sean. “It sounded amazing that I get to go home and help out my home islands at the same time.”

During this rotational deployment, Navy Seabees and Marine Corps engineers undertake infrastructure projects that benefit local populations in the Indo-Pacific region and enhance the United States’

ability to render support and aid in response to potential disasters or other crises within the region. This is the first time Kingzio has returned home since 2015, as well as the first-time home as a Marine. His family was thrilled to find out that their son would have the opportunity to return home after eight years of absence.

“Coming back as a Marine and executing these projects are very beneficial, not only for us but for the locals here

on Peleliu too,” said Sean. “I talked to some of the locals, and they like that we are here helping them keep their community clean, repairing their main road, and improving their economy.”

These projects undertaken by this engineer detachment demonstrate the U.S. commitment to working with our partners in support of a prosperous, secure, free and open region that benefits the peoples in the Indo-Pacific.

COMMONWEALTH LAW REVISION COMMISSION
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY
JCT Bldg II, Unit 6, Inahe St, Saipan
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-2179
W: commonlaw.gov • T: (670) 235-4820 • C: (670) 287-4700
E: commonlaw@cnmiports.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE

REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 11:00 a.m.
Commonwealth Law Revision Commission
JCT Building II, Unit 6
Susupe, Saipan

Agenda

1. Preliminary Matters
 - a. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - b. Proof of Notice of Meeting
 - c. Review and Approval of Minutes of Dec. 13, 2022 Regular Meeting
2. Reports of the Executive Director and Committees
 - a. Office & Staff Update
 - b. Publications & Website
 - i. Supreme Court Opinions, Superior Court Orders, NMI Reporter
 - ii. CMC
 - iii. NMIAC
 - iv. Driver's Handbook
 - c. Pilot Projects and Miscellaneous Projects
 - i. Transition to XML data standard
 - ii. Code enhancement and expansion
 - iii. Permanent session laws
 - iv. Style/formatting rules of submission
 - d. Sales and Other Reports
 - e. FY 2023 and FY 2024 Budget & Expenditures
3. Unfinished Business
4. New Business
5. Public Comment
6. Place and Date of Next Meeting
7. Other Matters

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

McKinley Care Assisted Living, Anchorage Alaska seeks experienced caregivers. \$16-20/ hour base pay. Flight to Alaska paid. Housing assistance provided. Call 907-531-6078 or email Shaw Reyes at shaw@mckinley.care.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Operations Manager (Saipan, MP)

Oversee and supervise overall daily operations of the company; Set a strategic plan for productivity and sales targets and ensure the company meets such targets; Develop and implement strategic operational and sales plan that expands the company's customer base; Develop and implement strategic operational and sales plan that expands company's customer base; Anticipate and track operational and tactical risks inherent in the business and provide strategic solutions; Assess and analyze budgets and on-going business projects to find ways to minimize expenses and optimize profits.

Requires High School Diploma and 24 months of experience as General Manager, Operations Manager, or General Affairs Manager.

Send Resume & Transcript to Wing Corporation.
ATTN: Hyeyoung KIM, P.O. BOX 10003 PMB 586, Saipan, MP 96950.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500 / 1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: HTTPS://WWW.CNMIPTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport
“Retail Concession”
CPA-RFP-005-23
for:
CPA Concession No. RCA-2022-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide retail services to the traveling public at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport (“Retail Concession”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide retail services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of Three (3) years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-23 is **April 20, 2023**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport or at the administration office at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Retail Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on May 23, 2023**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$50.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500 / 1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPTS.COM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BACKUP POWER SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-002-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the upgrade of the airport's backup power system at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-23.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, Friday, April 21, 2023.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria provided in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 20, 2023

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Request for Proposals
RFP NO.: RFP23-GOV-42300070

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 5, 2023 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"Multi-Disciplinary Professional Advisory Services Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity Contract (IDIQ)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, MRS. VELMA BENAVENTE VIA EMAIL AT vc.palacios@dof.gov.mp.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
GOVERNOR

/s/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Business

Mhel's Bento opens in San Roque

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A new take-out only food stall has opened to serve residents and workers in San Roque.

Mhel's Bento started operations last April 10 and primarily sells Filipino and local to-go meals, desserts, and snacks.

Owner Emily "Mhel" Javier said in the few days the new food stall has opened, customers seem to have developed a liking to their special halo-halo.

The unofficial dessert of the Philippines, halo-halo is a cold dessert usually prepared in a tall clear glass and served with a long spoon.

It's made up of crushed ice, evaporated milk or coconut



MARK RABAGO

Mhel's Bento is located along Middle Road near Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School in San Roque.



MARK RABAGO

Mhel's Bento has a two-table setup for dine-in customers and is open 6am-6pm, from Monday to Saturday.

milk, and various ingredients including ube jam (ube halaya), sweetened kidney or garbanzo beans, coconut strips, sago, gulaman (agar), pinipig, boiled taro or soft yams in cubes, flan, slices or portions of fruit preserves, and other root crop preserves.

Halo-halo, which literally means to mix in Filipino, is usually topped with a scoop of ube ice cream.

Aside from the \$6 special halo-halo, tapioca pearls and gulaman jelly with syrup has also become a favorite at Mhel's Bento



MARK RABAGO

Mhel's Bento owner Mhel Javier and staff Rainer Llagas.

and it only costs \$3.

As for meals, Javier said people have been requesting a lot of their homemade tapa, tocino, and imbotido dishes with garlic rice and egg. The so-called silog means (sinangag is fried rice and itlog is egg in Filipino) also comes with complimentary coffee.

Like all Pinoy eateries on Saipan, Mhel's Bento also has one- and two-choice breakfast and lunch bentos with the former costing only \$5 and the latter \$7.

While customers don't really say much about their food, Javier believes action always speaks louder than words as they already have repeat customers since opening 10 days ago.

"Some of our *kababayans* (countrymen) really miss Filipino food that they could only eat back in our home country. That's why I'm bringing it here to them by making this type of food available at Mhel's Bento," said Javier.

Javier, who has been a cook on Saipan for many years, said she opened the take-out only food stall so she can provide extra income to her family.

They are also open for catering services and can prepare food for hundreds of people.

Mhel's Bento, located along Middle Road near Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School in San Roque, has a two-table setup for dine-in customers and is open 6am-6pm, from Monday to Saturday. For more information, call (670) 789-3265.

House committee hears testimony on health insurance data breach

WASHINGTON (AP)—A top administrator with Washington's health insurance exchange apologized to House members on Wednesday for the data breach that resulted in the disclosure of personal information for thousands of users, including members of Congress.

The leak was the result of human error, Mila Kofman, executive director of the District of Columbia Health Benefit Exchange Authority, told a joint session of two House Oversight subcommittees.

She said a server was incorrectly configured in mid-2018 when they installed the internal communications program Slack. That faulty configuration allowed an unauthorized individual to access the server and steal two reports containing personal information of "56,415 current and past customers including members of Congress, their families, and staff."

Some of that information was later offered up for sale in an online forum. The issue first came to public attention when

members of the House of Representatives and the Senate were informed that they and their staffers may have been affected.

Kofman repeatedly apologized for the mistake, but she praised her agency's reaction once the breach was discovered in early March. She said outside experts and the FBI Cyber Security Task Force were brought in to quickly identify and shut down the security flaw. And those potentially impacted by the leak were immediately offered identity theft and credit monitoring protection, she said.

"We will not fail in our response," Kofman told the committee.

Rep. Nancy Mace, R-S.C., praised the agency's reaction, telling Kofman, "from a crisis standpoint, the response was excellent."

However, Mace took exception to what she called an "unacceptable" lack of detail on who exactly was responsible and whether that employee or contractor had been punished or fired.

Biden's labor secretary nominee faces doubts in Senate

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden's nominee to be the next labor secretary, Julie Su, will testify to the Senate Thursday with key Democrats unwilling to voice support for her confirmation, creating uncertainty about her prospects in the narrowly divided chamber.

A handful of moderate Democrats have not publicly stated whether they will vote for Su's nomination ahead of her confirmation hearing before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Biden in February picked Su, a civil rights attorney and the current deputy labor secretary, to replace Marty Walsh, the former mayor of Boston, to lead the Department of Labor.

The daughter of an immigrant mother who arrived on a cargo ship, Su would be the first Asian American in the Biden administration to serve in the Cabinet at

the secretary level. Biden called her path proof of the "American dream" and that "she's committed to making sure that dream is in reach for every American."

Su was previously confirmed as the deputy labor secretary, but has faced opposition from business groups critical of her record leading California's labor department. They point to her support of an overturned California law that would have required app-based ride hailing and delivery companies like Uber and Lyft, as well as trucking businesses, to treat their workers as employees, providing benefits like paid sick leave and unemployment insurance, rather than independent contractors.

Su has also faced blame for problems at the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency during the pandemic when unprecedented numbers of

people applying for unemployment benefits faced long work times and the state potentially paid out billions of dollars in fraudulent claims.

Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin, Jon Tester and Mark Kelly and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, an independent, all declined to say whether they would vote for her confirmation this week. Democrats cannot afford to lose more than a couple votes in a Senate divided 51-49. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., is also recovering from shingles in California, with no firm return date.

Manchin repeatedly declined to comment on Su's nomination this week; Tester said he would meet with her after the meeting to "make sure she's still right"; Kelly said he did not have concerns about her record but added he does not preview his votes; Sinema said through a spokeswoman that

she does not preview votes.

Su was confirmed by the Senate to her current role in 2021 by a 50-47 vote.

Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski said she voted against Su's confirmation in 2021 because of "how she had handled the unemployment compensation issues in the state of California."

Top Democrats, meanwhile, have signaled their support for Su with meetings at the Capitol this week.

At a meeting with Su on Monday, Sen. Tim Kaine, a Virginia Democrat, pointed to her work on job growth and said, "She's done a good job and I think she's got a two-year track record that is strong."

Late last year, Su was central to negotiations between labor and freight rail companies and helped avoid an economically debilitating strike. She has also led efforts to crack down on wage theft.

Nation

Supreme Court extends access to abortion pill to Friday

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court is leaving women's access to a widely used abortion pill untouched until at least Friday, while the justices consider whether to allow restrictions on the drug mifepristone to take effect.

The court is dealing with a new abortion controversy less than a year after its conservative majority overturned *Roe v. Wade* and allowed more than a dozen states to effectively ban abortion outright.

At stake now is whether to allow restrictions on mifepristone ordered by a lower court to take effect while a legal challenge to the medication's Food and Drug Administration approval continues.

The justices had at first given themselves a Wednesday evening deadline in a fast-moving case from Texas in which abortion opponents are seeking to roll back FDA approval of mifepristone, which is used in the most common method of abortion in the United States.

But on Wednesday afternoon, Justice Samuel Alito issued a one-sentence order giving the court more time and indicating it expects to act by Friday night. Alito, the justice in charge of handling emergency appeals from Texas, provided no explanation.

The justices are scheduled to meet for a private conference Friday, where they could talk about the issue. The additional time could be part of an effort to craft an order that has broad support among the justices. Or one or more justices might be writing a separate



Protesters march past the U.S. Capitol following a Planned Parenthood rally in support of abortion access outside the Supreme Court on Saturday, April 15, 2023, in Washington.

opinion, and asked for a couple of extra days.

The drug first won FDA approval in 2000, and conditions on its use have been loosened in recent years, including making it available by mail in states that allow access.

The Biden administration and New York-based Danco Laboratories, the maker of the drug, want the nation's highest court to reject limits on mifepristone's use imposed by lower courts, at least as long as the legal case makes it way through the courts. They say

women who want the drug and providers who dispense it will face chaos if limits on the drug take effect. Depending on what the justices decide, that could include requiring women to take a higher dosage of the drug than the FDA says is necessary.

Alliance Defending Freedom, representing anti-abortion doctors and medical groups in a challenge to the drug, is defending the rulings in calling on the Supreme Court to restrict access now.

Complicating the situation,

a federal judge in Washington has ordered the FDA to preserve access to mifepristone under the current rules in 17 Democratic-led states and the District of Columbia that filed a separate lawsuit.

The Biden administration has said the rulings conflict and create an untenable situation for the FDA.

Even as the abortion landscape changed dramatically in several states, abortion opponents set their sights on medication abortions, which make up more than half of all abor-

tions in the United States.

The abortion opponents filed suit in November in Amarillo, Texas. The legal challenge quickly reached the Supreme Court after a federal judge issued a ruling

3 charged with murder in Sweet 16 party shooting in Alabama

DADEVILLE, Ala. (AP)—Two teenagers and a 20-year-old man have been arrested and charged with reckless murder in connection with a shooting that killed four young people at a Sweet Sixteen birthday party in rural Alabama, investigators announced Wednesday.

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency announced that Tuskegee residents Tyreese "Ty Reik" McCullough, 17, and Travis McCullough, 16—and Wilson LaMar Hill Jr., 20, of Auburn—have been charged with four counts of reckless murder. Tallapoosa County District Attorney Mike Segrest said the two teens would be tried as adults, an automatic requirement for anyone 16 or older charged with murder in Alabama.

Sgt. Jeremy J. Burkett of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency declined at a news conference Wednesday to discuss how investigators believe the shooting unfolded.

"We can't get into a motive right now, because that would be part of an ongoing investigation," Burkett said. "We can't share that."

State law defines reckless murder as when someone

on April 7 that would revoke FDA approval of mifepristone, one of two drugs used in medication abortions.

Less than a week later, a federal appeals court modified the ruling so that mifepristone would remain available while the case continues, but with limits. The appeals court said the drug should only be approved through seven weeks of pregnancy for now, even though the FDA since 2016 has endorsed its use through 10 weeks of pregnancy.

The court also said that the drug can't be mailed or dispensed as a generic and that patients who seek it need to make three in-person visits with a doctor, among other things.

The generic version of mifepristone makes up two-thirds of the supply in the United States, its manufacturer, Las Vegas-based GenBioPro Inc., wrote in a court filing that underscored the perils of allowing the restrictions to be put into effect.

In the latest legal twist surrounding the case, GenBioPro filed a lawsuit Wednesday to preemptively block the FDA from removing its drug from the market, in the event that the Supreme Court doesn't intervene.

causes a death by acting with extreme indifference to human life and recklessly engaging in conduct which creates a grave risk of death.

Saturday's shooting at a 16th birthday party shocked Dadeville, a sleepy east Alabama town of 3,200. Besides the four people killed, 32 others were injured, four of them critically. The party, at a dance studio just off the town square, was in full swing when gunfire erupted.

The birthday girl's brother, 18-year-old Philstavius "Phil" Dowdell of Camp Hill, died as his sister knelt beside him begging him to keep breathing. He and another fatal victim, 17-year-old Shaunkivia Nicole "KeKe" Smith of Dadeville, were high school seniors. Also killed were Marsiah Emmanuel "Siah" Collins, 19, of Opelika, and Corbin Dahmontrey Holston, 23, of Dadeville.

"I just feel broken to know he is not with me," Dowdell's mother, LaTonya Allen said. "But I do feel a little peace knowing they arrested somebody." The arrests were announced the same day Dowdell's mother met with the funeral home to discuss details for his burial.

Police: Maine man killed parents before firing on motorists

BOWDOIN, Maine (AP)—A man confessed to killing four people, including his parents, and then firing on motorists on a busy interstate highway, just days after being released from prison, police said Wednesday.

Mike Sauschuck, commissioner of the Maine Department of Public Safety, called the shootings of four people at a home in Bowdoin and then three more people on Interstate 295 to the south in Yarmouth "an attack on the soul of our state" that shook neighbors, law enforcement and the state at large.

"It's a shock to everybody," he told reporters in Augusta. "You want to naturally say, 'That can't be happening here in Maine.' But the reality is these senseless acts can and do happen everywhere."

The seven people shot in Maine were the latest victims of mass shootings in the

U.S., whose targets included a Christian elementary school in Nashville, Tennessee; a bank in Louisville, Kentucky, and a Sweet Sixteen party in a small city in Alabama.

The gunman, Joseph Eaton, 34, had been released April 14 from the Maine Correctional Center in Windham, where he was picked up by his mother after completing a sentence for aggravated assault, police said. That crime was serious enough to prevent him from possessing a gun in Maine. Over the past decade he has been charged with more than a half-dozen crimes.

The shootings began in the small town of Bowdoin, where four people were killed Tuesday, with three bodies discovered in a home and one in a barn, police said. The victims in Bowdoin were identified Wednesday as Joseph Eaton's parents, Cynthia Eaton, 62, and David Eaton, 66, along with their friends, home-

owners Robert Eger, 72, and Patricia Eger, 62, police said.

After Joseph Eaton fled the home, a chaotic scene developed on a highway over 20 miles (32 kilometers) away in Yarmouth, where shots were fired at moving vehicles, police said. Joseph Eaton later told police he was firing on cars because he thought he was being followed by law enforcement. Several vehicles were hit by gunfire but the three people injured were a family all in the same car: Sean Halsey, 51; Justin Halsey, 29; and Paige Halsey, 25, police said. Paige Halsey remains in critical condition, police said Wednesday.

Joseph Eaton was found in a wooded area not far from a vehicle believed to be his own, police said. He was taken to Maine Medical Center, where he was treated and released without injury, police said.

He's due to make an initial

court appearance on Thursday.

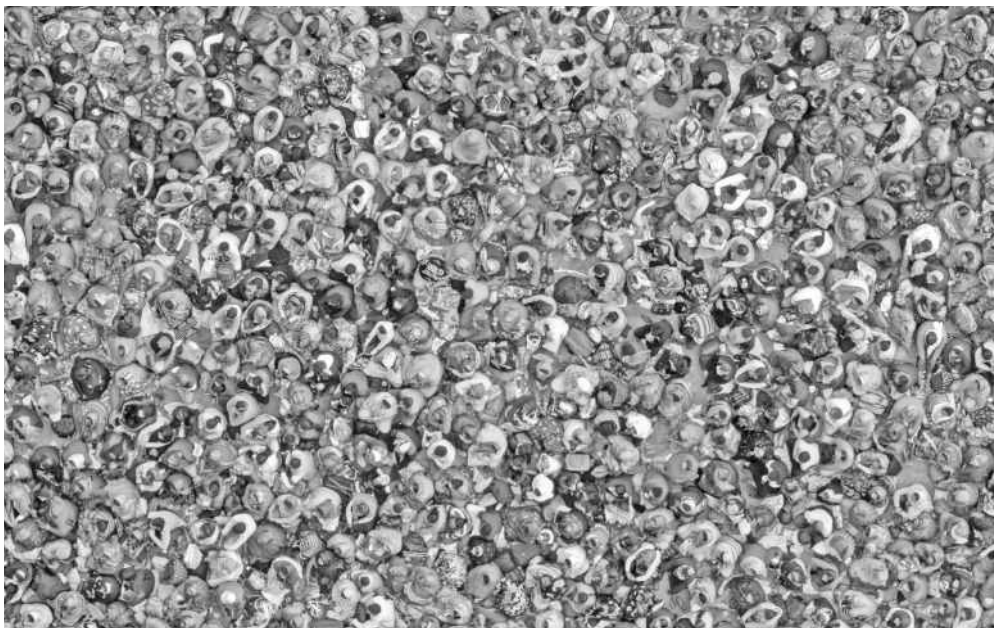
"Maine is a small state and has often been referred to as a single community, and I think Bowdoin epitomizes that. I'm heartsick over this tragedy that occurred, and to the people and residences of this community," said Sagadahoc Sheriff Joel Merry.

The day before the shootings, an anguished man believed to be Joseph Eaton posted a roughly two-minute live video on Facebook criticizing people who he said are Christian and don't give people a second chance. "What good does it do to hate somebody?" he said, choking back tears on the video. "You know, it destroys you."

On the day he was released from prison, the man believed to be Joseph Eaton posted on Facebook that he was feeling thankful. "It's finally over. There are so many people I can't wait to see."

Asia

India's population will pass China's soon, when exactly?



Hindu devotees listen to a religious leader at the Sangam, the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati rivers, during the annual traditional fair of Magh Mela festival, in Prayagraj, in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, Jan. 31, 2023. AP

By MIKE SCHNEIDER and SIBI

ARASU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

India should surpass China's population midway through this year, according to the latest projection from the United Nations.

That's of course unless it's happened already — or happens later in the year.

Demographers are unsure exactly when India will take the title as the most populous nation in the world because they're relying on estimates to make their best guess. The latest projection from the United Nations this week put it at midyear, though that remains an estimate.

China has had the most people in the world since at least 1950, the year United Nations population data began. Both China and India have more than 1.4 billion people, and combined they make up more than a third of the world's 8 billion people.

"Actually, there is no way we can know exactly when India will surpass China," said Bruno Schoumaker, a demographer at Université catholique de Louvain in Belgium. "There is some uncertainty, not only about India's population, but also China's population."

STILL, WHEN IS IT HAPPENING?

The U.N. said in a report Wednesday that India will have about 2.9 million people more than China sometime in the middle of this year — an estimated 1.4286 billion for India, 1.4257 billion for mainland China. But demographers have said the limits of population data make it impossible to calculate an exact date.

Mathematical calculations are made from data including a range of surveys, as well as birth and death records.

"It's a crude approximation, a best guess," said Patrick Gerland, chief of the population estimates and projections section at the U.N. in New York.

Not long ago, India wasn't expected to become most populous until later this decade. But the timing has been sped up by a drop in China's fertility rate, with families having fewer children.

HOW IS IT CALCULATED?

Demographers at the U.N. Population Division make estimates based on projections from a wide variety of data sources to get what they believe are the most up-to-date demographic numbers. The last update to the data used for these calculations for both India and China was July 2022, said Sara Hertog, a U.N. population affairs officer in New York.

The demographers then use a statistical technique to infer when India's population has surpassed that of China, according to Stuart Gietel-Basten, a professor at Khalifa University of Science and Technology in Abu Dhabi.

"The reality, of course, is that these estimates are just that," Gietel-Basten said. "But at least they are based on a relatively solid and consistent methodology."

WHERE DO THE NUMBERS COME FROM?

The foundations of both nations' numbers are censuses, or head counts, conducted every decade.

China's last census was in

2020. Demographers used birth and death records, along with other administrative data, to calculate how the population has grown since then.

India's last census was in 2011. Its scheduled 2021 census was postponed by COVID-19. Without an actual door-to-door count for more than a decade, sample surveys have filled in the gaps to help demographers and India itself understand its population, said Alok Vajpeyi of the New Delhi-based non-government organization, Population Foundation of India.

Among the most important is the Sample Registration System, India's large-scale demographic survey that gathers data on such things as births, deaths, fertility and more.

Andrea Wojnar, the United Nations Population Fund's representative for India, said the agency is confident in the survey's numbers "because it uses a very robust methodology."

WHY IS INDIA MOVING AHEAD?

China has an aging population with stagnant growth even after the government seven years ago retreated from a one-child policy, and just two years ago said couples could have three children.

India has a much younger population, a higher fertility rate and a decrease in infant mortality over the last three decades.

India has more babies born each year than in any other country, while China has joined many European countries in having more deaths each year than births, said Dudley Poston, Jr., an emeritus professor of sociology at Texas A&M University.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

US-made Patriot guided missile systems arrive in Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—American-made Patriot missiles have arrived in Ukraine, the country's defense minister said Wednesday, providing Kyiv with a long-sought new shield against the Russian airstrikes that have devastated cities and civilian infrastructure. The U.S. agreed in October to send the surface-to-air systems, which can target aircraft, cruise missiles and shorter-range ballistic missiles such as those that Russia has used to bombard residential areas and the Ukrainian power grid.

"Today, our beautiful Ukrainian sky becomes more secure," Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said in a tweet. The missiles are the latest contribution from Western allies, who have also pledged tanks, artillery and some types of fighter jets as Ukraine gears up for an expected counteroffensive. Reznikov thanked the United States, Germany and the Netherlands, without saying how many missile systems had been delivered or when they arrived. Ukrainian air force spokesman Yuri Ihnat said late Tuesday that delivery of the systems would be a landmark event, allowing Ukrainians to knock out Russian targets at a greater distance.

Stampede in Yemen at Ramadan charity event kills at least 78

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—A crowd apparently spooked by gunfire and an electrical explosion stampeded at an event to distribute financial aid during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in Yemen's capital late Wednesday, killing at least 78 people and injuring at least 73 others, according to witnesses and Houthi rebel officials. The tragedy was Yemen's deadliest in years that was not related to the country's long-running war, and came ahead of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan later this week. Armed Houthis fired into the air in an attempt at crowd control, apparently striking an electrical wire and causing it to explode, according to two witnesses, Abdel-Rahman Ahmed and Yahia Mohsen. That sparked a panic, and people, including many women and children, began stampeding, they said. Video posted on social media showed dozens of bodies, some motionless, and others screaming as people tried to help. Separate footage of the

aftermath released by Houthi officials showed bloodstains, shoes and victims' clothing scattered on the ground. Investigators were seen examining the area. The crush took place in the Old City in the center of Sanaa, where hundreds of poor people had gathered for a charity event organized by merchants, according to the Houthi-run Interior Ministry. People had gathered to receive about \$10 each from a charity funded by local businessmen, witnesses said. Wealthy people and businessmen often hand out cash and food, especially to the poor, during Ramadan.

Suspected shooting attack in Jerusalem wounds 2 Israeli men

JERUSALEM (AP)—A Palestinian gunman shot and wounded two Israelis in Jerusalem on Tuesday, police said, the latest bloodshed in a year-long cycle of violence that shows no sign of abating. Meanwhile, in the northern occupied West Bank, a focus of fighting for the past year, the Israeli military conducted an arrest raid in the Jenin refugee camp, prompting Palestinian militants to open fire. At least six Palestinians were wounded in the firefight, Palestinian health officials said, including a paramedic struck by shrapnel. Residents of the refugee camp reported that three Palestinians were arrested. Tuesday's events followed weeks of heightened tensions in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank during a rare convergence this month of the Jewish holiday of Passover and the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Israeli police were searching for the suspected gunman who fled the scene in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. The two Israelis, shot while inside their car, were treated for moderate wounds. Purported security footage from the incident shows the assailant rushing toward their parked car and opening fire at close range before bolting. Tensions in Israel and the occupied West Bank surged after an Israeli police raid on Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site, the compound home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The mosque sits on a hilltop compound known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, revered as the third-holiest site in Islam and the holiest in Judaism. The raid set off outrage in the Muslim world and prompted Palestinian militants to fire salvos of rockets at Is-

rael from southern Lebanon and the Gaza Strip earlier this month. The Israeli military struck sites linked to the Palestinian group Hamas in those areas in retaliation. Palestinian attacks against Israelis have killed at least 20 people, including one soldier, since the start of the year. At least 92 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire so far this year, according to a tally by The Associated Press. At least half of them have been affiliated with militant groups.

United Arab Emirates, Qatar edge toward reopening embassies

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Qatar and the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday both acknowledged they are edging closer to reopening embassies in each others' countries after a yearslong boycott of Doha over a political dispute. Qatar's International Media Office said in a statement that "work is underway" to reopen embassies "as soon as possible." The UAE said in a statement that "the activation of diplomatic ties, which will include the reopening of embassies, is under process between both countries." Neither statement gave an immediate date for the reopening. Reuters first reported the effort. The UAE, as well as Bahrain, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, launched a boycott of Qatar in 2017 and blocked the country's airline from its airspace, and also imposed other restrictions. The four nations were angered over Qatar's ties to Islamists and Iran, as well as other allegations during President Donald Trump's administration. The move ignited the biggest diplomatic crisis among the Gulf Arab states since Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. Trump initially appeared to back the four nations, though he later hosted Qatar's emir at the White House in 2019. Qatar, whose wealth comes from an offshore natural gas field it shares with Iran, is home to the forward headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command. While Kuwait's then-emir warned the dispute nearly reached an armed conflict, the boycott ended in 2021 just ahead of President Joe Biden taking office. Qatar's hosting of the 2022 FIFA World Cup saw Egypt's president and Saudi crown prince attend the opening. In the time since, Qatar's relations have thawed with Bahrain and the Emirates as well.

Off The Wall

Hawaii cites 2 for feeding feral cats and harming native geese

HONOLULU (AP)—State authorities have cited two women for allegedly harming nene—an endangered species of geese native to Hawaii—by feeding feral cats in a Big Island shopping center parking lot.

The state Department of Land and Natural Resources said it issued the citations on Tuesday while about 50 people were protesting a decision by the shopping center's owner to remove three cat-feeding stations. Some protesters were carrying large bags of cat food, the department said in a news release.

The nene geese are listed as an endangered species under Hawaii state law and a threatened species under U.S. law.

Stray cats have no predators in Hawaii, and their numbers have ballooned. Marketing research commissioned by the Hawaiian Humane Society in 2015 estimated Oahu alone had 300,000 feral cats.

The department earlier this month sent a letter to Alexander & Baldwin, the owner of Queens' Marketplace Shopping Center, saying nene had been observed eating food from the feeding stations and spending time among the felines there. It said cat food is not a natural part of the nene diet, and eating at the feeding stations habituates nene to people and makes them reliant on the provided food.

It also cited the threat to nene from toxoplasmosis, a parasitic disease spread by cat feces. The department said the disease is a leading cause of death for nene.

"Everybody who gets into wildlife work loves animals. We're not anti-cat, but when we see a concern with our endangered wildlife, we need to address it," Raymond McGuire, a wildlife biologist with the department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife, said in a news release.

Toxoplasmosis also harms Hawaiian monk seals, another endangered species. In 2021, a male Hawaiian monk seal died after a five-week battle with the parasitic disease.

Officer Cottontail? Bunny joins police force.



This undated photo provided by Yuba City Police Department shows Yuba City Police "wellness officer" Percy, a rabbit who was rescued in 2022, in Yuba City, Ariz.

YUBA CITY, Calif. (AP)—Meet Percy, the police rabbit. Yes, that's fur real.

Some bunny—also known as Officer Ashley Carson—found a lost rabbit last year in the middle of Percy Avenue in Yuba City, California.

Carson scurried back to the police station and handed the rabbit over to animal control,

who could find neither hide nor hare of the bunny's family.

In a hoppy ending, a police services analyst adopted the allegedly "docile and friendly" animal and named him Percy.

The Yuba City Police Department—about 40 hopping miles (64.37 kilometers) north of Sacramento—announced the rabbit's promotion to the

rank of "wellness officer" just days before Easter Sunday.

"Officer Percy lounges at the police department during the day and is a support animal for all," the department wrote on Facebook Wednesday.

The Easter Bunny could not be reached for comment. Case closed.

was treated and released from first aid to his guardian. The boy has been banned from the park for one year for attempted theft, Weber said.

Philadelphia truck break-in ends in parking lot dime heist

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Thieves may not have been counting on finding a mountain of change when they broke into a truck filled with \$750,000 in dimes, but they still made off with a chunk of the cargo and left coins scattered around a Philadelphia parking lot, authorities said. Authorities say the thieves apparently fled with

at least \$100,000. It's not yet known how they carted off the mounds of dimes. The theft was reported around 6 a.m. Thursday. The tractor-trailer driver had picked up the dimes from the Philadelphia Mint on Wednesday, authorities said, and was planning to transport them to Florida on Thursday. It's not clear how many people may have been involved in the theft or if they knew what the truck contained. Responding police officers found hundreds of dimes scattered all over the parking lot, and authorities were still trying to determine how much money was stolen. No arrests have been made.

Science & Technology

Mystery solved: Scientists ID Caribbean's sea urchin killer

NEW YORK (AP)—Last year, sea urchins in the Caribbean started getting sick—shedding their spines, dying off and throwing reef ecosystems into chaos. Now, scientists think they've caught the killer in this marine murder mystery.

A tiny single-celled parasite is to blame for the massive die-off, researchers reported Wednesday in the journal *Science Advances*.

"The case is closed," said study author Mya Breitbart, a marine microbiologist at the University of South Florida.

These long-spined sea urchins, or *Diadema antillarum*, are prickly black creatures that hide out in reefs across the Caribbean. They play a key role as "lawnmowers" of the reef, Breitbart said, eating up the algae that grows on corals.

But in January 2022, these animals started showing strange symptoms—their sharp spines drooping and falling off, their suction-cup feet losing their grip—before dying off in droves, from the Virgin Islands to Puerto Rico to Florida.

For marine scientists, it was déjà vu: Another die-off swept through the region in the 1980s and slashed sea urchin populations by around 98%.

That case was never solved. But this time, an international team of researchers jumped into action, taking samples from sick urchins and healthy ones across the Caribbean to look for genetic clues.

They didn't see signs of viruses or bacteria, said study author Ian Hewson, who researches marine diseases at Cornell University. But they did spot traces of tiny single-celled organisms called ciliates, which only showed up in the sick urchins.

Though most ciliates don't cause disease, this kind has been linked with other aquatic outbreaks, making it a prime suspect, Hewson said.

To confirm they'd caught the killer, scientists placed the parasites in tanks with healthy urchins grown in captivity to see how they'd react. Out of 10 urchins who were pitted against the tiny creatures, 60% of them died—after showing

the same symptoms researchers were seeing in the wild.

It's possible that this same parasite also caused the die-off in the 1980s, but scientists can't be sure, Breitbart said.

And they haven't figured out a way to treat the diseased urchins. But they're hopeful that knowing the source of the die-offs will help conserve the reefs, especially once they learn more about how the parasites spread, Breitbart said.

These urchin deaths and other stresses have already transformed the reefs, added Don Levitan, a marine scientist at Florida State University who was not involved with the study.

Back before the first sea urchin die-off, Levitan recalled seeing reefs in the U.S. Virgin Islands blanketed in the spiny creatures. Now, those reefs look much different—choked by algae, struck by coral disease and stressed out from rising temperatures.

"Coral reefs in the Caribbean are in trouble," Levitan said. "We're at a different place than we were 30, 40 years ago."

Old NASA satellite falling to Earth, risk of danger 'low'

An old NASA satellite is expected to fall to Earth this week, but experts tracking the spacecraft say chances are low it will pose any danger.

The defunct science satellite known as Rhesi will plummet through the atmosphere

Wednesday night, according to NASA and the Defense Department.

NASA said Tuesday that the reentry location is not being disclosed, given lingering uncertainty over when and where it might go down. Most of the 660-pound (300-kilogram) satellite should burn up upon return, but some parts are expected to survive.

The space agency said in a statement the risk of anyone on Earth being harmed by plunging satellite pieces is "low"—about 1-in-2,467.

Rhesi—short for the Reuven

Ramaty High Energy Solar Spectroscopic Imager—rocketed into orbit in 2002 to study the sun.

Before being shut down in 2018 because of communication problems, the satellite

observed solar flares as well as coronal mass ejections from the sun. It captured images in high-energy X-rays and gamma rays, recording more than 100,000 solar events. (AP)

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Boy, 13, gets stuck climbing into claw machine for prize

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—A 13-year-old boy had to be freed from a claw machine after he climbed inside hoping to score a prize, according to an official at a North Carolina amusement park. Carowinds officials were alerted just before 2 p.m. Sunday that the boy was inside the Cosmic XL Bonus Game, which contained plush prizes, according to Courtney C. McGarry Weber, a spokesperson for the park south of Charlotte. The medical response team unlocked the machine and the boy was able to get out, she said. He

was treated and released from first aid to his guardian. The boy has been banned from the park for one year for attempted theft, Weber said.

Philadelphia truck break-in ends in parking lot dime heist

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Thieves may not have been counting on finding a mountain of change when they broke into a truck filled with \$750,000 in dimes, but they still made off with a chunk of the cargo and left coins scattered around a Philadelphia parking lot, authorities said. Authorities say the thieves apparently fled with

at least \$100,000. It's not yet known how they carted off the mounds of dimes. The theft was reported around 6 a.m. Thursday. The tractor-trailer driver had picked up the dimes from the Philadelphia Mint on Wednesday, authorities said, and was planning to transport them to Florida on Thursday. It's not clear how many people may have been involved in the theft or if they knew what the truck contained. Responding police officers found hundreds of dimes scattered all over the parking lot, and authorities were still trying to determine how much money was stolen. No arrests have been made.

Try This

A dot that disappears

If you cannot see the edges of an object, it sometimes seems to disappear.

- Put circle of blue paper on pink paper and cover with waxed paper. Slowly lift the waxed paper without moving your head.
- The dot will fade into a blurred blue patch, then disappear.
- Move your head a little, and the dot reappears.

You'll need

- Pink paper
- 1 inch (2.5 cm) circle of light blue paper
- Waxed paper

What happened?

The dot disappears when you can not see its edges.

Moving your head helps you see the edges again.

Your eyes constantly make tiny vibrating movements.

They help your brain figure out what you are looking at by finding its edges.

Fuzzy dot: Brain cannot see edges, and it disappears.

Edge of paper: Brain can see it clearly.

Source: Peter Macinnis' Science Playwits
Graphic: Helen Lee, McComas, Paul Trap/Tribune News Service

Life & Style

‘Rust’ movie reboots after Alec Baldwin shooting

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—Filming on the Western movie “Rust” could resume this week in Montana, the production company said Wednesday, in the aftermath of the fatal shooting of a cinematographer during a rehearsal with actor Alec Baldwin on the original production in New Mexico.

Baldwin will continue his involvement as an actor and coproducer, and Rust Move Productions attorney Melina

Spadone said via a representative that filming will restart Thursday at the Yellowstone Film Ranch.

The production company finalized a settlement last month with New Mexico workplace safety regulators over “serious” violations, agreeing to a \$100,000 fine to resolve a scathing safety review that detailed unheeded complaints and misfires on set before cinematographer Halyna

Hutchins was shot and killed in October 2021.

Plans to resume filming were outlined last year by widower Matthew Hutchins in a proposed settlement to a wrongful death lawsuit that would make him an executive producer on a rebooted “Rust.”

Prosecutors in Santa Fe are pressing forward with involuntary manslaughter charges against actor Baldwin and a weapons supervisor Hannah

Gutierrez-Reed. Baldwin and Gutierrez-Reed have pleaded not guilty.

Baldwin was pointing a pistol at Hutchins during a rehearsal when the gun when off, killing Hutchins and wounding director Joel Souza.

Baldwin has said the gun went off accidentally and that he did not pull the trigger. An FBI forensic report found the weapon could not have fired unless the trigger was pulled.

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham this month signed a new \$360,000 allowance for prosecution of the case. Evidentiary hearings are scheduled in early May in state District Court to decide whether to proceed toward trial. Baldwin has indicated that he won’t attend those hearings.

Santa Fe District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altwies says her office is pursuing justice

in the death of Hutchins and wants to show that no one is above the law when it comes to firearms and public safety. She says the Ukrainian-born cinematographer’s death was tragic and preventable.

“Rust” safety coordinator and assistant director David Halls pleaded no contest in March to a conviction for unsafe handling of a firearm and a suspended sentence of six months of probation.

T. rex skeleton sells for more than \$5M at Zurich auction

BERN, Switzerland (AP)—Nearly 300 Tyrannosaurus rex bones that were dug up from three sites in the United States and assembled into a single skeleton sold Tuesday at an auction in Switzerland for 4.8 million francs (\$5.3 million), below the expected price.

Crafted into an open-mouth pose, the T. rex skeleton measuring 11.6 meters long (38 feet long) and 3.9 meters high (12.8 feet) high came in under the anticipated range of 5 million to 8 million francs when it went under the hammer at the Koller auction house in Zurich.

Koller had said Tuesday’s sale would be the first time such a T. rex skeleton would go up for auction in Europe. The composite skeleton, featuring 293 bones, was a showpiece of an auction that featured some 70 lots, and the skull was set up next to the auctioneer’s podium throughout.

“It could be that it was a composite—that could be why the purists didn’t go for it,” Karl Green, the auction house’s mar-



Cyril Koller, CEO of auction house Koller, stands next to the head of the skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus rex named Trinity, during an auction in Zurich, Switzerland on Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

keting director, said by phone. “It’s a fair price for the dino. I hope it’s going to be shown somewhere in public.”

Green did not identify the buyer, but said it was a “European private collector.” Including the “buyer’s premium” and fees, the sale came to 5.5 million Swiss francs (about \$6.1 mil-

lion), Koller said.

Promoters said the composite T. rex, dubbed “Trinity,” was built from specimens retrieved from three sites in the Hell Creek and Lance Creek formations of Montana and Wyoming between 2008 and 2013.

Koller said “original bone material” comprised more than

half of the restored skeleton. The auction house said the skull was particularly rare and also remarkably well-preserved.

“When dinosaurs died in the Jurassic or Cretaceous periods, they often lost their heads during deposition (of the remains into rocks). In fact, most dinosaurs are found without their

skulls,” said Nils Knoetschke, a scientific adviser who was quoted in the auction catalog. “But here we have truly original Tyrannosaurus skull bones that all originate from the same specimen.”

T. rex roamed the Earth between 65 million and 67 million

years ago. A study published two years ago in the journal Science estimated that about 2.5 billion of the dinosaurs ever lived. Hollywood movies such as the blockbuster “Jurassic Park” franchise have added to the public fascination with the carnivorous creature.

Antiquities plucked from storeroom

ROME (AP)—Hundreds of remnants of ancient Roman life—including colored dice, rain gutter decorations depicting mythological figures, and burial offerings 3,000 years old—have long been hidden from public sight. Until now.

For the next few months, a limited number of visitors to the Roman Forum, Colosseum or Palatine Hill can view a tantalizing display of ancient statuettes, urns, even the remarkably well-preserved skeleton of a man who lived in the 10th-century B.C. All the exhibits have been plucked from storerooms in the heart of the Italian capital.

Indeed, so many artifacts are kept in storerooms that “you could open 100 museums,” said Fulvio Coletti, an archaeologist

with the Colosseum archaeological park. On Wednesday, Coletti stood at the entrance to a “taberna,” a cavernous space which had served commercial purposes in ancient Roman times and belonged to the palace complex of the 1st-century Emperor Tiberius.

Three such “tabernae” now double as exhibition rooms for once-hidden antiquities. To give an idea of just how many more artifacts are still not on display, curators stacked enormous see-through plastic tubs, chockful of discoveries from some 2,000 years ago and bearing minimalist labels like “Ancient Well B Area of Vesta,” a reference to the temple in the Forum erected to the goddess of the hearth.

Grieving partner wrestles with loss and uncertainty

DEAR ABBY: We were a male couple in our 70s, together for 21 years, before my husband, “Charles,” died of COPD three weeks ago. For more than four years, I watched his health and quality of life decline until he finally had had enough and chose hospice. In less than 24 hours, he was gone.

He chose his way out, and for his sake, I’m thankful, but the pain I’m feeling is incredible. Each person grieves in their own way in their own time, and my friends and family have been amazing. I know Charles would want me to live my best life, and to honor him, which is exactly what I plan to do. The amount of paper and legal work is suffocating, but we are all getting through it.

During this time, I had expected to lean on our precious dog for comfort, but now he also will be taken from me. The vet just diagnosed him with liver cancer, and he has maybe four months to live. I’m numb and feel like a stranger in my own body. I know I’m strong enough to grieve them both, but at the same time, I am scared to death of being single again (note I didn’t say alone, because I am not). Please give me some guidance.

TOTALLY LOST RIGHT NOW

DEAR TOTALLY LOST: I am so sorry for the loss of your husband. That your dog you were depending upon for support through this difficult time is now terminally ill has

only added to your pain. It’s understandable that you feel disoriented and numb. You WILL work your way through this. The passage of time helps.

That you are not alone now is a blessing. Be glad you have the estate to settle because it will help you stay busy and, for short periods of time, will keep you focused on something other than the ache you are feeling. Do NOT jump into a new romance because you are afraid of being single! You will make your way through this by being patient with yourself and allowing your friends to step up until you are strong enough to stand by yourself. If you need extra support, ask your doctor to refer you to a grief support group.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My fiancée and I are about to get married in another state. I have lived in multiple states over the years and have friends and family in some of them. Some of these people aren’t able to attend the wedding. We understand their reasons and have offered a livestream as an alternative.

We are now being asked to host additional wedding receptions in other states, and we’re getting a lot of pressure about it. We have no desire to have additional wedding receptions with all the planning and expense that goes along with them. What’s a polite way to respond to these friends and family members?

NOT INTERESTED IN FLORIDA

DEAR NOT INTERESTED: Thank these friends and

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



relatives for the suggestion and explain that although it’s a nice idea, it isn’t within your budget. That’s the truth. Then encourage them to come and visit when time permits.

■■■■■

TO MY MUSLIM READERS: At sundown, it is time for the breaking of the Ramadan fast. Happy Eid al-Fitr, everyone.

LOVE, ABBY

■■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



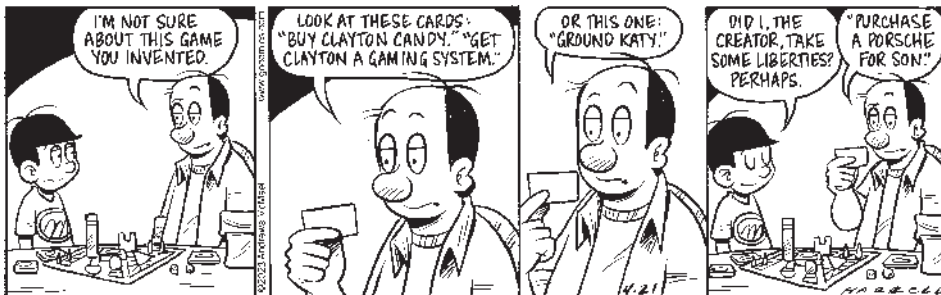
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Scratch
4 "Holy cow!"
8 Impetuous
12 Chemical suffix
13 Theater award
14 Sax range
15 Small caterpillar
17 "How — is that?"
18 Pool division
19 Winning
20 Dilutes
22 Winslet of "Titanic"
24 Coop group
25 Type of hot dog
29 Before
30 Actress De La Garza
31 Compete
32 Post-decluttering event
34 Corridor
35 Self-referential

DOWN

1 — tai (cocktail)
2 New England cape
3 Comfy den chair
4 Prom dresses
5 Reed instrument
6 Polite address
7 Clothes line
8 Maddow of MSNBC
9 Soap additive
10 Old portico
11 Contain
16 Painter Holbein
19 "— boy!"
20 Gender-neutral pronoun
21 Olympian queen
22 Eucalyptus eater
23 Top-notch
25 Level
26 Rousing tributes
27 Aswan's river
28 Hair products
30 On the Baltic, say
33 A Karazov brother
34 Pile
36 Fold
37 Hot tubs
38 Quotable Berra
39 Bring up
40 Pond growth
42 Pop's mate
43 — de-France
44 Basketball star Bird
45 Stick with a kick

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	S	A	P	R	I	D	S	H	I	F	I	D	
N	O	N	O	U	T	E	C	A	S	E			
N	A	N	A	L	E	B	A	R	T	S			
O	R	A	C	L	E	A	A	R	P				
				H	A	R	D	T	O	F	I	N	D
A	N	C	E	D	E	E	K	S	A	O			
C	O	R	D	I	R	N	S	E	T	T			
D	C	I	P	O	I	U	N	S	C	E	R		
C	A	M	E	T	O	M	I	N	D				
		E	X	A	M		T	O	U	G	A	N	
M	E	I	T	I	C	F	R	O	M	F			
O	M	A	R	E	L	M	E	L	E	C			
T	U	B	A	R	E	S		D	A	N	K		

Yesterday's answer 4-21

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emma Tremblay, 19; Rob Riggle, 53; Andie MacDowell, 65; Tony Danza, 72.

Happy Birthday: Emotions will be your driving force this year. Recognize that you must look at every angle and go over every detail before making decisions that can influence your position, reputation and prospects. If you use your intelligence, the experience and connections you have built over the years and your ability to live up to your promises, you will meet your expectations. Your numbers are 5, 16, 22, 25, 32, 34, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a moment to follow the dots and figure out what you want before you head in a different direction. Seek knowledge and wisdom from someone you trust to coach you along the way. Put your skills to work for you. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take care of personal problems before you help others. You'll do better with less stress, a clear head and a good understanding of what's possible. Once your vision is evident, reach out, and you'll make a difference to someone in need. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Refuse to let others push you in an undesirable direction. Don't fuel the fire when honesty and a simple yes or no are sufficient. Put your time and effort into increasing your income and winning over people who can influence your future. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Let helping others be your trademark, and something good will transpire. Your kindness, hands-on help and wisdom will encourage others

to make the most of what they've got and push you to find and fulfill your lifelong purpose. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If something doesn't interest you, take a pass. You owe it to yourself to look for opportunities that feature something you know and do well. Discuss your options with someone who knows you well, and the suggestions you receive will pay off. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can do anything you set your mind to if you believe in yourself and your attributes. Discuss your plans, set up meetings and listen to the suggestions you receive. Take precautions to avoid health risks when attending functions or meetings. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll learn plenty if you observe others. Take a crash course to help increase your qualifications to fit what's trending in today's market. A reunion or conference will offer interesting proposals and enhance an intimate relationship. Proceed with caution. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Different directions will beckon you. The people you meet will introduce you to options that previously were out of reach. Learn all you can and map out a plan conducive to improving your life and building a bright future. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stay home and tidy up loose ends. Taking care of personal business will help you make room for people and the things you enjoy doing most in life. Love is flourishing, and romance will enhance your relationship with someone special. ★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

6		1	8		3	5	4		
		3	4		5			1	
5	8			6	1		7		
1		6				4		7	
		4						2	
3		7		2		6		8	
2	6		9		7				
			5	4	8				

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	3	6	5	1	2	8	9	4
2	5	4	8	3	9	6	7	1
9	8	1	7	4	6	5	2	3
4	6	5	1	7	8	2	3	9
8	2	7	9	6	3	1	4	5
1	9	3	2	5	4	7	6	8
6	7	8	4	9	5	3	1	2
3	4	2	6	8	1	9	5	7
5	1	9	3	2	7	4	8	6

Difficulty: ★★★★★

4-21

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll score big with the people you encounter today. Your wisdom, help and influence will make a difference to someone who can offer something worthwhile in return. Investments, partnerships and home improvements are favored, but don't offer to pay for someone else's mistakes. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Use your connections to get what you want. Don't waste time trying to get people to see and do things your way. Follow your path and give others the freedom to do as they please. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You're in a perfect position, so don't hesitate to move. Reach out, start a conversation, and negotiate and barter for what you feel you deserve. Mix business with pleasure, and you'll capture attention, support and an offer that piques your interest. ★★



Birthday Baby: You are sympathetic, thorough and proactive. You are dedicated and helpful.



★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

OLD-FASHIONED ARCADES

Solution: 9 letters

E L E D A C E D E F E N D E R
D L L L I K S C O R E T R O U
E A O E S T R E N G T H P E L
P B S M N A S R A C N H A D E
I N N I A I Y P O N G O R I U
T I O A T C H O A S A M K V Q
N P C E I O A C U C M E T B I
E O A E Y X L H A T E G R A T
C M T C N N A S W M H O W E N
A O E T M T N L L E S O M M A
R V R D U A U E A U L A U L E
T I O I A B N R P G R S I E Z
O E K C U L D E Y I I N S V I
O I D U A I R H O C K E Y E R
N I N T E N D O N K E Y A L P

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4/21

Air Hockey, Antique, Audio, Bros, Button, Cars, Cartoon, Centipede, Century, Console, Decade, Defender, Donkey, Galaxian, Game, Glow, Home, Kong, Level, Link, Luck, Machine, Mario, Medal, Movie, Music, Nintendo, Pac-Man, Park, Penny, Pinball, Play, Points, Pong, Prize, Retro, Rule, Score, Sell, Skill, Slot, Space, Strength, Super, Target, Team, Video, Whac-A-Mole, Youth

Yesterday's Answer: Appetizer

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at
www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Murray has 40 points, Nuggets beat Timberwolves for 2-0 lead



DENVER (AP)— Jamal Murray scored 40 points and Michael Porter Jr. had 13 of his 16 in the fourth quarter, powering the Denver Nuggets past the Minnesota Timberwolves 122-113 on Wednesday night for a 2-0 lead in the NBA playoff series.

Nikola Jokic added 27 points, nine assists and nine rebounds for the Nuggets, who blew an early 21-point lead and trailed 89-87 heading into the fourth quarter.

Anthony Edwards had 41 points for the Wolves, who shot a sizzling 81% in the third quarter to erase a 64-59 halftime deficit.

Minnesota had shot just 39% in the first half, just slightly better than it did in a 29-point loss in the series opener Sunday night.

"They shot 80% in the third quarter—80%!" Denver coach Michael Malone fumed on TNT after watching the Timberwolves make 17 of 21 shots. "So, we didn't play any defense. That's what happened!"

The series shifts to Minneapolis for Game 3 on Friday night.

The Nuggets recovered during a thrilling fourth quarter that began with Porter scoring eight straight points—on a four-point play, a reverse layup and two free throws—but the Nuggets couldn't shake the energized Wolves, who clawed back and went ahead 99-98 on an Edwards' jumper.

Porter replied with a 3-pointer that restored Denver's lead for good.

Rudy Gobert scored 19 points but was whistled for a technical foul while arguing his fifth foul, a shove in Jokic's back. It was teammate Kyle Anderson—whom Gobert punched in the Timberwolves' final regular-season game—who calmed down Gobert.

The Timberwolves promised to be more physical after getting blown out Sunday night but it took until the third quarter for them to really bring the fight to the Nuggets.

GRIZZLIES 103, LAKERS 93

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)— The Memphis Grizzlies learned about an hour before tipoff they wouldn't have their two-time All-Star point guard, with Ja Morant's bruised right hand aching too much to take the court.

They gave their teammate more time to heal.

Xavier Tillman scored a career-high 22 points and had 13 rebounds, and the Grizzlies tied their first-round Western Conference series



Denver Nuggets guard Jamal Murray, left, is defended by Minnesota Timberwolves center Karl-Anthony Towns during the first half of Game 2 in an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Wednesday, April 19, 2023, in Denver.

at 1-1 Wednesday night by beating the Los Angeles Lakers 103-93.

"Obviously, this is a big win for us," Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said. "You know, great performance from him (Tillman), other guys as well."

No. 2 seed Memphis sat Morant after he tested the right hand originally hurt April 7 in a win at Milwaukee and aggravated driving to the basket in the opening loss to the Lakers. He had more exams on the hand before being declared inactive and watched from the bench with his hand bandaged.

Jenkins called the move a "collective decision" as the Grizzlies hope Morant continues the improvement he's shown the past couple days and will be back sooner than later. Jenkins wouldn't guarantee when that will be. Game 3 is Saturday in Los Angeles.

"Hopefully over the next couple of days, there's more significant improvement," Jenkins said.

Morant's teammates made sure Memphis didn't miss him.

The Grizzlies led by as much as 20 and had fans waving their towels chanting "Whoop That Trick" with 30 seconds left with this series guaranteed a return to Memphis for Game 5. The Grizzlies were able to dribble out the final seconds for the win.

Jones credited Tillman, a third-year player from Michigan State, with bringing a needed dynamic when he plays as he did. The Grizzlies don't have center Steven Adams nor key reserve Brandon Clarke this series because of injuries.

"He was big time for us

tonight and a big reason why we got the win," guard Tyus Jones said.

Jaren Jackson Jr., the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year, scored 18 points for Memphis. Desmond Bane had 17, while Jones had 10 points and eight assists after having an hour's notice he would start for Morant.

But LeBron James noted that Jones has led the NBA in assist-to-turnover ratio for five straight seasons, the longest such streak in NBA history. Memphis gave him starter money last summer to stick around for his seventh season.

"They're just as dangerous a team when Tyus is starting," James said. "They don't miss a beat, and we knew that. No matter if Ja's in the game. If Ja's starting, dangerous. If Tyus is starting, dangerous. It didn't change our approach."

James led the Lakers with 28 points and 12 rebounds, his 103rd career playoff game with 20 points and 10 rebounds. He tied Tim Duncan for fourth-most all-time. Only Shaquille O'Neal, Karl Malone and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar stand ahead of him.

Reserve Rui Hachimura had another strong performance with 20 points. Anthony Davis struggled mightily after posting a double-double in the opener, going 4 of 14 and finishing with 13 points and eight rebounds.

The Lakers, winners of 11 of their previous 13, had a four-game winning streak snapped. Now they head home after never leading by more than three, and that came on the first points of the game.

Los Angeles had five of

their 10 turnovers in the first quarter, and Memphis turned those into 10 points to take control with a 22-8 run. That included back-to-back 3s in the span of 10 seconds from rookie David Roddy, then Kennard, who also drew a foul for a four-point play.

Lakers coach Darvin Ham said their on-ball individual defense has to be better against a physical defensive team.

"That throws everyone's rhythm off," Ham said of the turnovers.

With Bane scoring 10 points, Memphis led 30-19 after the first. Jackson made his first 3 with 58 seconds left, and the Grizzlies went into the half up 59-44 after outscoring the Lakers 29-25 in the second.

Hachimura scored 11 in the third and helped the Lakers trim a Memphis lead that reached 66-46 to 73-67. The Grizzlies finished the quarter on a 10-4 run to push the lead to 83-71 going into the fourth.

The Lakers never got closer than 94-88 in the final quarter on a James' layup with 3:10 remaining. Memphis scored five straight to push it back to double digits.

BUCKS 138, HEAT 122

MILWAUKEE (AP)— For at least one night, the Milwaukee Bucks didn't miss Giannis Antetokounmpo at all.

Brook Lopez scored 25 points, Jrue Holiday added 24 and the hot-shooting Bucks withstood Antetokounmpo's absence while trouncing the Miami Heat 138-122 on Wednesday, tying their Eastern Conference first-round playoff series at a game apiece.

Milwaukee shot 25 of 49

from 3-point range to match an NBA record for 3-pointers in a game as the Bucks showcased their depth by thriving without their two-time MVP. Pat Connaughton, who hadn't even played in Game 1, scored a playoff career-high 22 points and shot 6 of 10 from beyond the arc.

"Everyone's ready," Lopez said. "Everyone has the right mentality coming into the game—the mentality it takes to be a Milwaukee Buck. There's no one above anyone else. We're just out there trying to win."

Antetokounmpo remained out for Milwaukee after leaving the Bucks' 130-117 Game 1 loss early in the second quarter with a bruised lower back. He suffered the injury on a hard fall after getting fouled late in the first period during a drive to the basket.

"We'll continue to monitor him and expect for him to improve and still continue to be optimistic that soon he'll be ready to play," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said before the game.

The Bucks' ability to succeed without their superstar assured this series would be tied as it heads to Miami for Game 3 on Saturday.

"I would like to be up 2-0, but that's in the past now," said Jimmy Butler, who led the Heat with 25 points. "So we're taking it to the crib, and we've got to handle business on our home floor."

Milwaukee now shares the NBA record for 3-pointers in a playoff game with the Cleveland Cavaliers, who made 25 in a 123-98 victory over the Atlanta Hawks in Game 2 of

the 2016 East semifinals.

It was a remarkable turnaround for a team that shot 11 of 45 from beyond the arc in its Game 1 loss.

"There was a stretch there where it seemed like everything was going in," said Grayson Allen, who was 4 of 8 from beyond the arc and scored 16 points.

Allen was one of six Bucks with at least 16 points as Milwaukee relied on a team effort to make up for Antetokounmpo's absence. Joe Ingles had 17 points while shooting 5 of 6 from beyond the arc. Khris Middleton had 16.

"It takes the whole team," Middleton said. "I think you saw that tonight. It wasn't just one guy that carried us. A lot of people expect me or Jrue to take on all the load that Giannis does, but what he does, we can't match. So we have to do it by committee."

The Bucks also were missing guard Wesley Matthews, who had strained his right calf in Game 1. The Heat didn't have Tyler Herro, who broke his right hand in Game 1 and likely won't return this season unless Miami reaches the NBA Finals.

The Bucks initially thrived by relying on the same formula they used the last time they played a home postseason game without Antetokounmpo. They gave the ball to Lopez early and often.

Lopez, who scored just 10 points in Game 1, had 14 by the end of the first quarter Wednesday. During Milwaukee's 2021 title run, Lopez had scored a playoff career-high 34 points to help the Bucks beat the Hawks 123-112 in Game 5 of the East finals while Antetokounmpo was out with a hyperextended left knee.

The success of Lopez inside opened things up for everyone on the perimeter.

Connaughton sank a 3-pointer that capped an 11-0 run to put Milwaukee ahead 62-41 with 5:29 left in the second quarter. Butler ended that spurt by making two free throws, but the Bucks scored the next 13 points – including seven from Ingles – to grab a 32-point lead.

"They had some good, clean, easy looks in the beginning," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "And then once they got on a roll, they were hitting some tough step-backs, stuff at the end of the shot clock. Any time there was kind of a momentum shift, they seemed to knock down a big one."

The Bucks led by as many as 36 in the third quarter. The Heat outscored the Bucks 37-20 in the fourth quarter to make the final score somewhat respectable.

Scherzer tossed, Mets still rally to beat Dodgers, 5-3



LOS ANGELES
(AP)—Max

Scherzer swore on his children's lives he put nothing but sweat and rosin on his hands at Dodger Stadium. The umpires still ejected him Wednesday, telling the Mets ace his hand was too sticky to possibly be legal.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner loudly proclaimed his innocence afterward. Scherzer also praised his bullpen for saving the Mets' day after his early exit.

Scherzer was ejected in the fourth inning after the umpires' check of his hands, but five relievers came through and Brandon Nimmo went 5 for 5 in New York's 5-3 victory over the slumping Los Angeles Dodgers.

Scherzer was visibly furious when umpire Phil Cuzzi tossed him following an inspection and a lengthy conversation that included plate umpire Dan Bellino, the crew chief.

"Yes, when you use sweat and rosin, your hand is sticky," Scherzer said. "I don't get how I get ejected when I'm in front of MLB officials doing exactly what you want and being deemed my hand is too sticky when I'm using legal substances."

The trouble started after the second inning, when Cuzzi determined Scherzer's hand was stickier and darker than normal. Cuzzi ordered Scherzer to wash his hand, which Scherzer said he did with alcohol while a Major League Baseball official watched.

After the third inning, Cuzzi then determined the pocket of Scherzer's glove was "sticky," likely with too much rosin, and he ordered Scherzer to change gloves. The umpires then checked the 38-year-old right-hander again before the fourth, and his hands were even worse than before.

"As far as stickiness, level of stickiness, this was the stickiest that it has been since I've been inspecting hands, which now goes back three seasons," Bellino said. "Compared to the first inning, the level of stickiness, it was so sticky that when we touched his hand, our fingers were sticking to his hand. And whatever was on there remained on our fingers afterwards for a couple innings, where you could still feel that the fingers were sticking together."

Scherzer had pitched three scoreless innings of one-hit ball before his early exit. It was his shortest start since June 11, 2021, when he threw 12 pitches for Washington before leaving with a groin injury.

"I knew I was going to get checked (before the fourth), so I'd have to be an absolute



New York Mets starting pitcher Max Scherzer, left, is ejected from the game as he and manager Buck Showalter dispute a call from umpire Phil Cuzzi, center, and umpire Dan Bellino, right, after they found a problem with Scherzer's glove during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles, Wednesday.

idiot to use anything else," Scherzer said. "I literally go out there with sweat and rosin, (and) I get ejected."

Bellino and Cuzzi weren't buying it, saying something was out of the ordinary with Scherzer.

"Every pitcher we check, we're accustomed to what that rosin residue will be on a pitcher's hand," Bellino said. "The fact that this went so much further was indicative that there was something likely more than just rosin. Something that was so sticky that, whatever it was, it was all over the palm. It was up on the inside of the fingers."

YANKEES 3, ANGELS 2, 10 INNINGS

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Judge robbed Shohei Ohtani of a homer just before hitting a two-run shot in the first.

Gleyber Torres, in a 1-for-21 slide, had a sacrifice fly in the 10th off Matt Moore (1-1).

Gio Urshela tied it 2-all for the Angels in the eighth with a two-out RBI single against his former team — one pitch after Wandy Peralta batted Hunter Renfroe to second base. Brandon Drury followed with a slicing drive to deep right-center that would have knocked in the go-ahead run if Judge hadn't made a sensational catch just shy of the warning track.

Angels manager Phil Nevin was ejected in the ninth for arguing after Mike Trout was called out to end the inning on a full-count check swing with two on against Clay Holmes. Ian Hamilton (1-1) worked a scoreless inning for his second major league win.

RAYS 8, REDS 0

CINCINNATI (AP)—Yandy Diaz homered on the third pitch of Levi Stoudt's big

league debut to spark a six-run first inning, and Tampa Bay improved to a major league-best 16-3.

Tampa Bay pitched its second straight shutout and has six this season, more than half the Rays total of 10 for all of last year.

Drew Rasmussen (3-1) allowed three hits and three walks in five innings with seven strikeouts.

Cincinnati dropped to a season-worst four games under .500 at 7-11 and was held scoreless in consecutive games for the first time since April 2019.

Stoudt (0-1), a 25-year-old right-hander acquired from Seattle in last summer's trade that sent Luis Castillo to the Mariners, allowed seven runs, nine hits and one walk in four innings with three strikeouts.

GUARDIANS 3, TIGERS 2

DETROIT (AP)—José Ramírez a three-run homer off Spencer Turnbull (1-3) in the sixth inning. Detroit had won five straight after a 2-9 start.

Paul Quantrill (1-1) allowed four hits over six shutout innings, then left after Kerry Carpenter's line drive hit him on a leg. Emmanuel Clase pitching the ninth for his sixth save.

GIANTS 5, MARLINS 2, 11 INNINGS

MIAMI (AP)—Michael Conforto and Mike Yastrzemski hit two-run homers off Devin Smeltzer (0-1) in the 11th inning as San Francisco stopped a five-game losing streak. Miami had won six of its previous seven games.

Camilo Doval (1-2) got three outs in the 10th around intentional walks to Luis Arraez and Jorge Soler. Doval struck out Bryan De La Cruz

and Avisail Garcia to end Miami's threat. Taylor Rogers entered with two on and one out, struck out Jazz Chisholm Jr. and hit Garrett Cooper with a pitch. Rogers then retired Arraez on a groundout for his first save this year.

CARDINALS 14, DIAMONDBACKS 5

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Tommy Edman had a three-run homer with a career-best five RBIs and Nolan Gorman hit his first big league grand slam as St. Louis Cardinals avoided a three-game sweep.

Madison Bumgarner (0-3) allowed seven runs, seven hits and four walks in three innings. The 33-year-old left-hander's ERA rose from 7.90 to 10.26 in four starts.

St. Louis set a season high for runs, scoring three or more runs in four innings.

Jake Woodford (1-2) earned his first win as a starter since last Aug. 23, allowing four runs and eight hits in five innings.

RANGERS 12, ROYALS 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Jonah Heim hit a three-run homer, Marcus Semien had three hits and drove in a pair of runs. Texas won its fourth straight.

Martin Pérez (3-1) allowed three runs on eight hits over 5 2/3 innings.

Kansas City has been outscored 52-15 while losing six straight games and is 4-15 under first-year manager Matt Quattraro. Brady Singer (1-2) allowed five runs, six hits and three walks in five innings.

PHILLIES 5, WHITE SOX 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Trea Turner hit his first home run for Philadelphia after leav-

ing the Los Angeles Dodgers for a \$300 million, 11-year contract, then singled and scored in the third and capped a two-run fourth with an RBI double. Brandon Marsh also went deep.

Taijuan Walker (2-1) gave up two runs and five hits in 6 1/3 innings, and José Alvarado pitched the ninth for his second save.

Mike Clevinger (2-1) gave up three runs and six hits in three innings as the White Sox lost for the sixth time in eight games.

PIRATES 14, ROCKIES 3

DENVER (AP)—Rodolfo Castro hit a 458-foot homer and drove in four runs as Pittsburgh completed a three-game sweep in which it outscored Colorado 33-9.

Colorado has lost eight straight games and is a National League-worst 5-14. The game drew 18,511, the smallest crowd for a Coors Field game with unrestricted ticket sales since 18,341 on April 18, 2013.

Andrew McCutchen put the Pirates ahead in the first with an RBI double off Austin Gomber (0-4) and hit a 442-foot home run in the second as Pittsburgh took a 9-0 lead. Johan Oviedo (2-1) gave up one run and three hits in six innings.

CUBS 12, ATHLETICS 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Dansby Swanson scored the tiebreaking run standing up on an infield grounder to spark a four-run sixth inning, and Chicago finished a three-game sweep. The A's have lost seven straight and at 3-16 are mired in their poorest 19-game start since the 1951 Philadelphia A's.

Eric Hosmer hit his first home run since last July 29 for San Diego, and Patrick Wisdom had a two-run triple.

Justin Steele (3-0) struck out five in six innings, allowing two runs—one earned—and four hits.

Mason Miller made his major league debut and allowed two runs, four hits and one walk with five strikeouts in 4 1/3 innings.

PADRES 1, BRAVES 0

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Juan Soto homered off Charlie Morton (2-2) leading off the fourth, his fourth homer of the season, stopping Atlanta's eight-game inning streak. The Braves were blanked for the first time this season.

Nick Martinez (1-1) allowed three hits in seven innings, and Josh Hader pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

San Diego won for just the

second time in eight games and will welcome back superstar Fernando Tatis Jr. on Thursday in the opening game of a four-game series at Arizona. Tatis finished an 80-game PED suspension on Wednesday.

BREWERS 5, MARINERS 3

SEATTLE (AP)—Eric Lauer (3-1) allowed just four hits over 7 2/3 innings as Milwaukee finished a three-game sweep, giving up Julio Rodríguez's two-run homer in the third.

Brice Turang hit a go-ahead single in a five-run seventh off Matt Brash (1-2), who relieved Marco Gonzales with two on and a 2-0 lead.

Matt Bush got two outs for his first save this season.

ORIOLES 4, NATIONALS 0

WASHINGTON (AP)—Kyle Bradish (1-0) allowed five hits over six innings in his return from a bruised left foot on April 3, combining with four relievers to extend Baltimore's scoreless streak to 26 innings.

Adam Frazier hit a two-run homer in the fourth off MacKenzie Gore (2-1).

Washington has lost six of seven. The Orioles are on a season-high three-game winning streak.

TWINS 10, RED SOX 4

BOSTON (AP)—Joey Gallo hit a three-run homer in his return from the injured list, and Trevor Larnach and Edouard Julien also homered. Gallo, who missed 10 games with a right intercostal strain, had two hits and Larnach had a three-run homer and four RBIs.

Joe Ryan (4-0) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings and Brent Headrick got a save in his major league debut, giving up one run and one hit in three innings.

Corey Kluber (0-4) gave up seven runs and six hits in five innings, his ERA jumping to 8.50.

ASTROS 8, BLUE JAYS 1

HOUSTON (AP)—Luis Garcia tied a career high with nine strikeouts in seven shutout innings. He allowed two hits and got 19 swings and misses with his cutter, 23 overall.

Jeremy Peña capped a six-run eighth with a three-run homer Mauricio Dubón extended his career-long hitting streak to 14 games with a single in the eighth that started a two-out rally.

José Berrios (1-3) surrendered two runs and three hits in seven innings.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



The Baby Geckos of Saipan International School were the speediest runners in the start of Week 3 9U and 12U qualifiers in the NMA/PSS All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 on Tuesday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

SIS topped 11 heats in the 9U boys 100m, 9U girls 100m, 9U boys 400m, 12U boys 400m, 9U girls 400m, 12U girls 400m, 12U boys, and girls 1,500m events.

Koblerville Elementary School and Oleai Elementary School topped seven heats each.

The 9U boys 100m Heat 2 Top 3 SIS' Gabriel Walsh at 17.65; Richardson Mungwaath from KobES at 17.88; and Jacob Borja from OES at 18.15 seconds.

The 9U girls 100m Heat 2 first place was SIS' Neveah Arriola at 17.14; Kaylen Taflinger from OES was second at 17.82; and third was Liana Sokau from San Vicente Elementary School at 18.18 seconds.

Heat 3 Top 3 was SIS' Scarlett Burrell at 16.71; Marianne Eugenio from OES at 17.25; Naomi Benjamin from SVS at 17.94 seconds.

The 9U boys 400m Heat 1 Top 3 was SIS' Tristan Bertonicini at 1:37.33; teammate Cole Santos at 1:40.06; and KobES' Arturo Pangelinan at 1:40.34.

Heat 2 first place was SIS' Ezra West at 1:25.82; second was Jaden Concepcion from OES at 1:30.82; and third was Jesus Daikichy from William S. Reyes Elementary School at 1:33.49.

The 12U boys 400m Heat 2 Top 3 was Quido Jambor from SIS at 1:20.08; Iku Benavente from KobES at 1:22.54; and Alexander Salundaguit from OES at 1:26.69.

The 9U girls 400m Top 3 in Heat 1 was Scarlett Burrell at 1:25.94; Kaylen Taflinger at 1:27.14; and Giovanni Igisaia from KobES at 1:31.43.

Top 3 in Heat 3 was Neveah Arriola at 1:30.65; Naomi Benjamin at 1:37.07; and

SIS Baby Geckos lead ES athletics qualifiers



Saipan International School's Gabriel Walsh, second left, led the boys 9U 100m Heat 2 with a time of 17.65 seconds in the start of Week 3 9U and 12U qualifiers in the NMA/PSS All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 on Tuesday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

Jasiel Mesik at 1:37.53.

The 12U girls 400m Heat 2 first place was SIS' Leilani Ruzsala at 1:30.18; Haelie Edwards was second at 1:32.34; and third was Isla Grant at 1:32.57.

The 12U boys 1,500m was dominated by Quido Jambor at 6:47.12; second was teammate Jake Duenas at 7:13.16; third was WSR's Vicente Aldan at 7:24.08.

And the 12U girls 1,500m

Top 3 was Leilani Ruzsala at 7:10.42; Erricka Long at 7:29.28; and Isla Grant at 7:32.01.

In the softball throw event that day, Top 3 in the 9U boys was Saipan Commu-



Oleai Elementary School's Alexander Salundaguit attempts the softball throw event in the start of Week 3 9U and 12U qualifiers in the NMA/PSS All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 on Tuesday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

nity School's Lennox Sablan at 25.39m; Ernesto Kukun from OES at 24.58m; and Lellan Daniel with 23.34.

The 9U girls Top 3 was OES' Ayana Elameto at 19.29m; KobES' Giovanna

Igisaia at 18.64m; and Leilourchibw Taisakan from KobES at 12.96m.

Results of the middle school and high school qualifiers will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

KWON

From Page 24

dedicated her championship to her coach and father, Dong Min Lee.

Curiously, Lee lost in the girls 16 against Hoo Wang. Lee, the No. 2 seed, led Wang early only to succumb in the last two sets against the No. 1 seed, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

In the boys 16, second seed Siwoo Lee overcame a tough challenge from June Yu to upset the top seed, 6-2, 6-7 (1), 7-5.

In the boys 14, Nason Wessel justified his top seeding by beating Matthew Hwang, 6-3, 6-0.

No. 2 Hannah Chae then took out No. 1 seed Lina Tsukagoshi

in the girls 14's protracted finale, 3-6, 7-5, 10-7.

In the boys 12, top seed Jinho Cody Park triumphed over second seed Min Joon Michael Jeon, 6-4, 6-4, while Vivian Chung dominated the girls 2-0 in round-robin play.

Cooper Koning Fong won the boys 10 after going 4-0 in round-robin play.

In the boys doubles 18, David Kwon and Henry Choi went undefeated in two matches to win the division, while Jinho Cody Park and Haoyang Song did exactly the same in the boys doubles 12.

In the girls 18, Irin Chung and Anna Kwon beat Hoo Wang and Hannah Chae, 7-5, 6-4, in

the finals for the tiara.

The 2023 NMI Crowne Plaza Junior Tennis Championships

was held in coordination with the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.



Lee



Chae

CUKI

From Page 23

which goes all the way back into the hills for the two-hour endurance race. Saturday's races will be an individual race, where racers compete for top placings and Sunday will be a team format and racers can have a partner for the two-hour race. This will be a test of men and their machines and the team who completes the most laps in two hours wins," he said.

A total of 28 MRA riders will compete in Guam and they are the following, with their classes in parenthesis: Henry Camacho Sr. (ATV

Open); Byron Castro (Novice); Nanako Celis (School Girl); Charles Cepeda (Veterans and Legends); Matthew Guerrero (School Boy); Anella Igitol (Mini ATV); Maribel Igitol (Women Sr.); Billie Inabo Pangelinan (Women Jr.); Marissa Rasa (Women Sr.); Ponce Rasa (Novice); Frankie Sablan (School Boy); Julian Salalila (Veterans); Jonoah Santos (65cc); Joseph Santos (Intermediate); Keenon Togawa (Mini ATV); Patrick Togawa (Expert Open); Nakoa Torres (Mini ATV 50cc); Ethan Yumul (School Boy); Francesca Yumul (Mini ATZ 90cc); and Ray Yumul (Veterans).

In addition to motorbikes and ATVs, MRA also entered

the drag race competition with two entries this year.

Ray Yumul, who is the secretary of Public Works, expects to experience a higher level of racing again and to have fun competing in Guam.

"I hope the CNMI can embrace off-road and motocross racing as another sport and recreational activity. Perhaps we may be able to attract off-island racers to come."

Corry Pangelinan, meanwhile, admitted he's a bit nervous, considering this weekend's event is his first ever off-island motocross.

"I hope that I can adapt to the new track fast because we won't have much time to practice. I believe we have

two days then we will be racing. My sister and I will do our best to represent the CNMI and our team, Errico Racing."

His sister, Billie, just hopes to have a solid performance in Guam, podium finish or not.

"I don't have much expectations for when I race in Guam, although I really hope I'm able to have a great performance. I will be putting in some time to practice and prepare for race day and will also try my very best to adapt to a new track. This will be my first time going off-island for an international race, and also trying out a new track. I'll have to quickly adapt to the new surroundings.

SUFC

From Page 24

Aubrey Castro found an opening and shot one in for a 4-0 game. Then, Ye Lynn Ha, Beatrice Gross, Manabat, and Audrey Castro made it an 8-0 game by the 30th minute.

17U BOYS MP United FC 3, Matansa 0

In the 17U boys game, MP United Football Club silenced Matansa, 3-0.

Kanoa 2, Tan Holdings 1

The last 17U game of the day was a comeback by Kanoa, 2-1.

Though Tan Holdings' Christian Lucero drew first blood in the 46th minute, Kanoa's Markus Toves and Paul Lizama changed the game to their favor, 2-1 in the 65th minute and held on to the lead for the W.

K2

From Page 23

Ol'Acs cruised to an 86-71 win over The Game and stayed perfect in the open division at 5-0, while their opponents lost just their second game in five outings.

In the second game, Puerto Rico Bento improved to

3-2 after waylaying Socho Team, 69-61. The latter went down to its fifth straight loss after winning their debut.

Last Monday, Susan's Catering got the better of Checkpoint International, 83-73, to raise its record to 2-4, while keeping their opponents winless in five games at that time.

First Game

Blue Haus 84 – Diaz 21, Talania 20, Barrios 11, De Dios 10, Berline 7, Esdrelon 5, Santos 4, Peredo 3, Aitogue 2.

Double A Corp. 67 – Catalla 18, Lontoc 10, Palero 9, Rivera 7, Jugos 4, Tolentino 4, Sangoyo 3, Pablo 3, Cabaluna 2.

Scoring by quarters: 9-15, 36-29, 59-46, 84-67.

Second Game

K2 Ballerz 76 – Palmes 26, Mariano 19, Santos 8, Ta-itingfong 6, Mamis 5, Faisao 4, Dikito 3, Pua 3, Kaipat 2.

Checkpoint Int'l 72 – A. Camacho 13, Ege 11, Es-mores 9, G. Camacho 8, Maesa 6, Yanto 5, Lumen 3, Eliazar 3.

Scoring by quarters: 16-20, 41-41, 56-56, 76-72.

Calvo looks forward to more clinics

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Guam Basketball Confederation and national coach

E.J. Calvo can't wait to return to the CNMI to conduct more clinics after a successful session last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium that went over the 3-hour schedule.

"My impression from the coaches that attended is a passion for the sport and willingness to learn. I have personally experienced many of the same obstacles as a coach, businessman, and leader of an organization and I was able to share what has worked for me. It was a good start and I look forward to holding more clinics for both athletes and coaches in the near future," he said.



MARK RABAGO

Guam Basketball Confederation president and Guam national basketball coach E.J. Calvo puts the CNMI national basketball pool players through the paces during last Saturday's coaching clinic at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee thanked Calvo for sharing his expertise and the 22 participants of the clinic.

Participants of the coaching clinic consisted of coach-

es of both the CNMI senior and junior national teams, various club coaches, elementary, junior high and high school coaches, as well as college students that are majoring in education.

Sonics assistant Omar

Ajoste said the coaching clinic was a great opportunity to collaborate with the neighboring island of Guam.

"Thank you NMI basketball federation and GBC president and national team head coach, E.J. Calvo for the free coaching clinic."

He said his biggest takeaway from the clinic was the part when Calvo shared about self care and family.

"He mentioned selfcare is key to avoid burnout. Additionally, he mentioned that his wife is a supporter of his accomplishments. Happy wife, happy life, yes sir!"

Ajoste also came out impressed how Team Guam efficiently prepares when going to off-island tournaments, which one of the main factors why they're No. 12 in Asia and No. 79 in the FIBA World Rankings. He said Cal-



MARK RABAGO

Guam Basketball Confederation president and Guam national basketball coach E.J. Calvo said he can't wait to conduct clinics in the CNMI again.

vo shared they never leave without a medical trainer/doctor and physical therapist/health staff.

Former CNMI women's national basketball player Connie Camacho appreciated Calvo's insights and hopes to inculcate them in her school team.

"I thought the clinic was a good refresher for veteran coaches and brief but very informative for new ones."

Blue Haus coach Dan Chan, for his part, said the coaching clinic is important for relatively new coaches like him. He also hopes Calvo's clinic won't be the last.

Cuki confident of MRA's chances in Smokin' Wheels

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Marianas Racing Association hopes to build on their success in last year's Turkey Cross when they compete in the 40th Smokin' Wheels set to start today, April 21, until Sunday, April 23, at the Guam International Raceway.

MRA vice president Cuki Alvarez likes Saipan riders' chances in the three-day race against competitors from host Guam, the Philippines, Japan, and even the mainland U.S.

"We have chances to bring home the gold in all divisions. However, Guam has been training just as hard if not harder to represent home court, so we are super stoked and looking forward to the challenge in this awe-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Racing Association riders and their families pose with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios as they await their flight to Guam at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Wednesday.

some goodwill competition!" said the patriarch of Trench Tech Racing.



Alvarez will see action in the Enduro Class along with his son, Shane Alvarez, and other Saipan riders Dave Celis, Melvin Cepeda, Corry Pange-

linan, Aric Cruz, Ellery Cruz, and Christian Camacho.

"The Saipan team is very excited and have waited many years to race back on Guam! Team Saipan did great in last November's Turkey Cross and have been keeping busy racing in January, Febru-

ary, and March. So we are as prepared as we can be going into this weekend's race. On Saturday, we will be racing the infield track aka 'Super-cross' and on Sunday, it will be the infield course combined with the buggy course,

See CUKI on Page 22

K2 Ballerz win, Double A loses in SCLC caging

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

K2 Ballerz won again, while Double A Corp. lost again in the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Wednesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

In the first game, Double A's only bright spot was the first quarter where they led 15-9. Blue Haus, however, won the next three quarters after that as it drained Double A dry en route to an 84-67 victory.

Tony Diaz and Brendon Talania shot the lights out against Double A, finishing with 21 and 20 points, respectively. Double A was paced by the 18 markers of Rodney Catalla and 11 points of Aiken Ege.

Blue Haus thus remained unscathed in the masters division at 4-0, while Double A is at 1-3 following its win in the previous game.

In the second game, K2 Ballerz extricated itself from a close game and outlasted Checkpoint International, 76-72, in the open division.

Checkpoint International actually led after the opening 10 minutes, 20-16, but the game was pretty much even-steven after that before K2 Ballerz outplayed their opponents down the stretch to improve to 2-3.

Jay Palmes led all scorers with 26 points for K2 Ballerz, while Austin Camacho fired 13 markers for the now 0-6 Checkpoint International.

Last Tuesday, MarTech See K2 on Page 22



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Murray has 40 points, Nuggets beat Timberwolves for 2-0 lead
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kwon, Lee lead Crowne Plaza tourney winners

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

David Kwon and Anne Lee topped the premier divisions of the 2023 NMI Crowne Plaza Junior Tennis Championships last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Kwon, the No. 1 seed, completed his round-robin sweep of the boys 18 by beating June Yu, 6-3, 6-2.

The 16-year-old student from Mt. Carmel School said the finals was difficult because he played with a hand injury and “so I was just trying to put the ball in.”

Kwon dedicated his latest boys 18 championship to his ever supportive family.

Lee, for her part, upset No. 1 seed Serin Chung after the 12-year-old topped the girls 18

with an easy 6-1, 6-0 victory,

The younger sister of nationally ranked collegiate netter Carol Lee liked the way she played in the girls 18 finale.

“I think I played pretty good. She (Chung) used a lot of tactics and I barely caught up with the ball but I still made it,” said the 5’7” Saipan International School student.

She said her forehand and receiving worked well during the finals that somehow negated Chung’s speed. Lee

See KWON on Page 22



Lee



Kwon

Natives, Falcons win close games in SBL

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



The Natives and Falcons held on to win their games by just one run each in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Francisco “Tan Ko” Palacios Baseball Field.

The Natives notched their third win and are undefeated after they won, 10-9, over the D-9ers on Tuesday, while the Falcons slipped past the Braves, 3-2, on Wednesday.

Both the Natives and D-9er’s were evenly matched as they both left runners in scoring position, but their pitching held and the Natives allowed only seven hits, while the D-9ers allowed eight.

By the fifth inning, the D-9ers were down by one, 8-7, as the Natives had a three-run inning that was ignited by Perry Celis getting hit by a pitch. Austin Benavente reached base off a single, followed by Keoni Lizama, who then both scored.

In the last inning, the Natives added two more runs after a double by Darion Jones for a 10-7 game. With the D-



LEIGH GASES

Natives pitcher M.J. Sakisat delivers a pitch to a D-9ers batter during their game in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Francisco “Tan Ko” Palacios Baseball Field.

9ers last at-bat, they brought in only two runs and fell as they were short by one run to tie and two to win.

The Falcons on Wednesday also had a tight game against the Braves as pitching on

both sides were on point.

Contact with the ball was minimal for both teams as the Braves had five scoreless innings, while the Falcons had four.

The Braves’ Andrew

Camacho had an RBI single in the first inning and their next and last run was made

in the fifth inning by Josenio Alvarez.

A.J. Evangelista led things off for the Falcons with a single, then proceeded to successfully steal second

and third base. He ended up reaching home on a balk by the pitcher.

J.J. Teigita, the Braves pitcher, then recomposed See NATIVES on Page 22

SUFC earns lopsided 19-2 win

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



The 17U girls of Southern United Football Club blew Shirley’s FC out of the pitch, 19-2, in the TakeCare NMI-FA Youth Spring League 2023 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

SUFC’s Rizza Relucio drew first blood in the ninth minute and a cascade of goals followed right after. Summer Manahane, Pia Newakl, and Tamia Kileleman-Hix scored their first goals of the game.

Four more goals were scored in the first half as Shirley’s still had nothing on the scoreboard for an 8-0 SUFC lead heading into the second half.

Shirley’s was still scrambling in the pitch to get a goal and wouldn’t snag one until after seven more were

scored by SUFC. Alyssa Borlongan broke through for Shirley’s in the 50th minute.

However, before Erish Carreon could score their second and last goal in the 59th minute, Newakl had already scored nine, Kileleman-Hix scored four, Rosie Saralua shot two, for a huge 18 goal deficit by the 58th minute.

Kanoa 8, Paire 0

Kanoa FC blanked Paire 8-0 in the other U17 girls game of the afternoon.

It was smooth sailing with each pass as Kanoa’s Alejandra Manabat swiftly found the net in the ninth minute.

Elikristiana Iglesias then scored two minutes after, followed by Deseha Mendiola’s goal in the 19th.

See SUFC on Page 22



LEIGH GASES

Southern United Football Club’s Tamia Kileleman-Hix, left, goes up against an MP United FC player in this file photo in one of their games of the TakeCare NMIFA Youth Spring League 2023 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.